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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Roads buckle under gridlock

Every metropolis has traffic jams, but Beijing's are legendary. Unable to stem car purchases, experts are putting their hopes in public transportation.



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Top 13 old-time snacks

Wind your way through several historic neighborhoods on this tour to satisfy your belly with 13 old-time Beijing foods.

Can charity survive split?

One Foundation, the charity founded by action film star Jet Li under the Red Cross Society of China, is in a pickle. Its contract with the Red Cross ends in three months, but regulations still prohibit it from striking out on its own.

Public funding drives are still the exclusive domain of government agencies and registered public foundations, leaving the foundation with no way to encourage people to donate 1 yuan a month.

With Li's application to register as an independent charity already declined, can One Foundation find a new way to survive the transition?

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999 adds new air ambulance to fleet



The cost of a ride on the air ambulance begins at 100,000 yuan.

Photo by Li Tao

By Chu Meng

The country's first air ambulance was unveiled by the Red Cross at its 999 Air Emergency Transport Operations Center this Monday.

But getting sick in remote areas is still a bad idea: the cost of a ride on the air ambulance begins at 100,000 yuan.

That sum covers only flight fees, ground service and medical supplies. Any in-flight treatments may raise the price considerably, said Zhang Lei, marketing director of Asia Air Medical, the company serving 999's flights.

Services include the transfer of injured persons from remote areas to the nearest airport or urban medical facility. The jet can also fly the injured out of the country.

The ambulance is adapted from a Beech-

craft 400A commercial jet. Its 80 passenger seats have been removed to make room for a stretcher and five chairs, two of which are reserved for medical staff. It carries 2,100 milliliters of oxygen, a heart monitor, ventilator and blood analyzer.

The craft, on standby at Tianjin Binhai International Airport, is flown by two foreign captains who have previous experience flying medical jets and more than 4,000 hours of logged flight experience.

But with its high fees, emergency air support remains inaccessible to most people.

"Even by private jet standards this ambulance is expensive," said Zhang Qihui, a professor of law at the Logistics College of the China Air Force.

"In developed countries, air ambulance

teams are sponsored by charities and the government, and even then the required payment may be reduced by insurance," he said.

Despite the media hailing the jet as the first of its kind in China, SOS Beijing has long offered emergency plane services for patient transfer.

But its air ambulances are rarely used by Chinese patients, a Beijing International SOS Clinic Operation department manager surnamed Zhan said Tuesday.

"The price is decided after doctors view the medical report. Most foreign patients have international medical insurance which covers the plane charges," he said.

Part of the expense is getting emergency clearance for flight through low-altitude airspace: an area not accessible to

civil aircraft.

All low-altitude flights must be approved by the People's Liberation Army Air Force and the Civil Aviation Administration, and helicopters especially must pass a complicated approval process, Xing Yu, an expert in Chinese aviation, said.

Since the 2008 Olympics, the Beijing Red Cross 999 call center has received 136 calls demanding air emergency transport. About 70 percent were from foreign nationals.

During its five months of trial operations the aircraft airlifted 10 clients.

Patients in need of the jet can dial 999 in Beijing, 010-999 outside Beijing and 0086-10-999 outside China. Doctors on staff determine whether aircraft transit will be necessary or allowed.

City traffic grinds to painful 5-hour halt

By Han Manman

"Beijing's roadways may not show signs of sickness, but they are headed for a heart attack," said Liang Sicheng, considered the father of modern Chinese architecture.

It seems his old prophecy is being fulfilled.

Last week may have been a tipping point for the capital's already cluttered roadways.

Vehicles were stuck on more than 140 roads late Friday in the densest jam since driving day restrictions began in 2008. In many places, gridlock rivaled what was seen during last year's snowstorms.

Drivers reported that it took several hours to travel 10 kilometers, making vehicle travel almost slower than walking.

Similar jams occurred again on Sunday and Tuesday.

Municipal traffic management blamed the unruly conditions on bad weather and holiday drivers, but many residents say Beijing's car population has passed critical mass.

For many people, Beijing is synonymous with traffic jams. In 2003, when the number of vehicles on the road reached 2 million, the city began its ongoing battle against congestion.

But after eight years of restrictions, parking fee hikes and rotating work hours,



Traffic congestion is once again a serious problem, as evidenced by Friday's gridlock.

CFP Photo

the government has not solved its traffic problem: today there are as many as 4.5 million vehicles clogging the roads.

Congestion grew from an average 3.5 hours per day in 2008 to five hours this year, the Beijing News reported.

The average driving speed, currently 24 kilometers per hour, may fall to 15 by 2015 when the number of vehicles tops 7 million, city transport official Guo Jifu said last month.

Through traffic jams affect everyone, a slow in car purchases is unlikely, said Zhao

Jie, a transportation expert at the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design.

"Our government supports the development of this industry, so we cannot completely restrict the use of private cars," Zhao said.

Ma Baohua, a professor at Beijing Transportation University, said the key to solving the problem is improving public transportation.

Beijing lags far behind metropolitan areas like Tokyo and Paris, where as many as 60 percent of the residents use public transportation, Ma said.

"When people feel more confident about public transportation they will rely less on private vehicles," he said.

Many of the capital's expats echoed his sentiments.

A netizen writing under the handle "Marco Polo" who moved to the capital from the US four years ago suggested expanding the subway system.

"Maybe big cities will need one subway stop per square kilometer. Singapore and Hong Kong both are expanding their subway systems, so the mainland should learn from their experience," he said.

The government plans to open 13 new transportation junctions in 2013 to connect railways, taxis and long distance buses. These junctions would have parking lots to reduce pressure on roads.

But infrastructure is only one way to tackle the problem. A netizen, "Elisa," said better traffic education is equally important to improving road congestion.

Bad driving slows everybody down, especially when drivers scramble for every gap and never give way, she said.

"Many drivers do whatever they want and the result is a big mess," Elisa said. "Both drivers and pedestrians need to learn the rules of the road, but it takes time to change bad habits."

Officials and executives buy face, promotions from universities

By Li Zhixin

Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) announced on its website at the end of last month that 307 graduate students were being expelled for failing to complete their studies.

The expulsion and posting of the list was a normal move for the school — the attention grabber were the names, which could easily be confused with a list of the area's top officials, enterprise executives and athletes.

From office to academia

Zhang Qikuan, commissioner of the Xingzhou Public Security Bureau in Hubei Province, was a master's degree candidate at Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST).

He first enrolled as a student in its School of Politics and Public Management in 2004 to pursue a degree in public relations and administration.

After four years of class, the school expected to see his graduate thesis in June 2008; more than two years later it remains missing.

Zhang was given the boot because school rules require master's degree candidates to complete their degrees within four years; Ph.D. candidates must complete theirs within eight years.

However, failure to submit a thesis is merely the most recent of Zhang's academic problems. School records show habitual truancy.

"Our degree program in public relations and administration consists of 12 courses worth 42 credits, but Zhang enrolled in only three courses during his three years and skipped every final exam," said Feng Zheng, deputy president of graduate programs at the school.

"This is endemic to graduate schools," said Zheng Huibo, 35, a recent graduate. "Some students trying to meet the credit demands send their secretaries or assistants to attend class for them ... Some even hire classmates to write an extra thesis and take the final exam for them."

To those involved in academia, none of this is a shock.

The most truant students usually claim to be busy with "official business." The questions stop after the first several missed classes, because both teachers and the school are eager to appease officials, Zhang said.

One reason for appeasement is a professor grading system that determines the value of educators based on the scores of their students. Teachers who act fairly and issue a failing



Many officials and executives pursue a degree only for promotion.

Yuan Jinzhi/CFP Photos



As many as half of all Ph.D. holders are working in government — not research or education.

grade to delinquent students are instead criticized for their poor teaching methods.

"Teachers know not to go looking for trouble," Zhang said.

Even a cursory inspection of HUST's list of 307 expelled students reveals a Who's Who? list of government officials, state-owned enterprise executives and sports stars.

"We are expelling them to benefit existing legitimate master's and Ph.D. degree holders, and to guarantee the value of future degrees we issue," Feng said.

Building face

Graduate students who are still working tend to pursue degrees in management, economics, public relations and law because these are among the easiest diplomas to get, said Tan Shukui, a professor of public management at HUST.

"Although officials and bosses

lie to their interviewers and say they want to broaden their horizons, it's obvious in their performance that the only motivation is career advancement," he said.

Records from the State Council on Academic Degrees' Committee Office show that China has led the world in Ph.D. degrees since 2007. But because a significant number of these degrees are held by high-ranking civil servants, many doubt their authenticity.

In June 2009, Xu Zongheng, Shenzhen's ex-mayor, was revealed to have pumped up his resume. When he began his career, Xu stated he was a graduate of Hunan Traffic School, a technical secondary school. As his position rose, so did his claimed degrees. By the time he became mayor, he claimed to have a master's degree from China University of Political Science and Law.

The year before, a police investigation revealed another diploma scandal involving Wang Yi, a former deputy chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission. While stationed in Beijing, he somehow managed to finish all his classes and earn a Ph.D. in economics — a feat he achieved at the Chengdu-based Southwestern University of Finance and Economics more than 2,000 kilometers away.

During the 20th century, 90 percent of Ph.D. holders pursued a position at universities or research institutions; today, more than half are swarming the government, Yang Yuliang, director of the State Council on Academic Degrees, said.

"Many officials and executives see a higher diploma as a way to build face. No one wants to fall behind in the race," said Li Xin, a public servant with a master's degree.

Expulsion no fix

Liu Daoyu, ex-president of Wuhan University, said postgraduate education is intended to cultivate people who understand theory and research and to enrich the think tanks of higher education. But since 1990, with the rapid expansion of postgraduate education, the highest degrees have become social ornaments.

The number of Chinese graduate students swelled by more than 1 million during the last decade, reaching 1.4 million last year.

Although HUST's current list expels more than 300 students,

these account for less than 2 percent of its graduate students.

"Many people are seeing this move as a signal that the school wants to improve the quality of postgraduate education, but expulsion cannot solve this problem. This is happening because the schools have no independent supervision of admissions," Liu said.

The Ministry of Education allows anyone with a bachelor's degree, four years of work experience and one published paper to enter graduate school through a special backdoor for "on-the-job students."

"The exam is notoriously easier than the national graduate entrance examination because the university is creating it. Some teachers even leak the questions to officials so that they can pass," said a Ph.D. candidate in Xi'an.

Ma Jie, deputy secretary-general of the China Democratic League, said some officials even use their power to pressure schools into accepting them and handing them a certificate.

"The policy was intended to encourage our most brilliant civil servants and enterprising employees to further their studies. But many officials and executives see it as a loophole through which they can buy a higher diploma," Feng said.

"We can't judge each student's motivation for continuing their education, but we can strengthen our supervision of enrollments to prevent new dishonest students from entering," he said.



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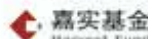
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Whether you call it the Lantern Festival, the Moon Festival or the Moon Cake Festival, the 15th day of the eighth month in the lunar calendar is a red-letter day.

Many foreigners, however, do not understand what the excitement is all about.

How many foreigners in China understand the significance of the Mid-Autumn Festival and give friends moon cakes as is Chinese tradition? A report on Xinhuanet.com shows a disheartening picture.



Many foreigners in China feel detached from traditional festivals.

Chen Qing/IC Photo

When the moon is perfect

Cultural differences leave expats baffled at Moon Festival

Most foreigners here feel a detachment with Chinese holidays – and the Mid-Autumn Festival is no exception. They regard the festivities with a mixture of curiosity, fascination and humor, the report said.

Though it's easy to get an idea of the Mid-Autumn Festival

from the media, it's more difficult to take part in it and even harder to feel a connection with it, which largely comes from growing up within the culture, the report said.

Foreigners usually don't have many ties to the Chinese community. Even if they have a Chi-

nese spouse or a close Chinese friend, there is a cultural gap to be bridged. So the Mid-Autumn Festival is something distant and removed.

Ryan Ulrich, an American in Beijing, said that most foreigners learn about the Mid-Autumn Festival from the boxes

of moon cakes that seem to have appeared out of nowhere.

"This whole weekend I saw loads of people just buying carton after carton of moon cakes," Ulrich said. "On one public bus, I counted at least 10 boxes of moon cakes among the 15 passengers sitting in the front of the bus."

The report concluded that the holiday seems to be relatively misunderstood or ignored by China's foreign residents. For the Chinese, it's a little clearer what the full moon, family gathering and exchange of moon cake boxes mean.

(By Huang Daohen)

Factbox

Mid-Autumn Festival and its traditions

The Mid-Autumn Festival, which fell on Wednesday, is a traditional Chinese holiday that originated from worship of the moon.

As its name suggests, the festival falls in the middle of the fall season and symbolizes a time for harvest and family reunion. The festival has no fixed date in

the Gregorian calendar, but the day always coincides with a full moon, thus it is also known as the Moon Festival.

The Chinese began celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival in the early Tang Dynasty (618-907), a period of material abundance and cultural blossoming.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is

characterized by:

Moon cakes

A legend goes that moon cakes were first made in the 14th century, when people exchanged pancakes that enclosed slips of paper reading, "Kill the Mongols on the 15th day of the eighth month."

Lord Rabbit

Known as Tu'er Ye, the Lord

Rabbit is a traditional icon of the festival. It has a human body, but a rabbit's ears and mouth. This year, Beijing incorporated modern elements into the icon and reinstated it as the city's "ambassador" of the festival.

Matchmaking

The Chinese believe the god of the moon is a highly efficient

matchmaker. In some parts of China, masquerades are held on Mid-Autumn Festival for young men and women to find partners.

Lanterns and dragon dances

These are traditional activities during the holiday, but are popular mainly in south China, particularly in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong. (Xinhua News Agency)

Sidelights

Things you didn't know about the Moon Festival

1. Mid-Autumn doesn't always occur during a full moon. Contrary to popular belief, the moon is not necessarily full or at its brightest and biggest during the Mid-Autumn Festival. The lunar calendar doesn't coincide perfectly with the moon's revolution, so there's no guarantee the 15th day of the eighth month will be

a full-moon night – but the full moon always occurs within two days of the festival.

2. In Taiwan, the Mid-Autumn Festival is a BBQ Day. Despite the government's efforts to crack down on outdoor grilling for the sake of the environment, barbecuing persists among Taiwanese families. In the mid-1980s,

a major barbecue-sauce company launched an ad with the slogan "Mid-Autumn Night is BBQ Night." Since then, Mid-Autumn has become the peak season for the sale of BBQ products on the island.

3. Many young people chose to sleep through the festival. According to a survey by the *Beijing*

News, 60 percent of respondents said they will catch up on sleep on Mid-Autumn Day, and only 27 percent said they will have a reunion with parents, though the Mid-Autumn Festival is traditionally spent with family.

"I had too much work before the holiday, now I just want to have a good rest," one respondent said.

Long distances between family members also hamper reunions, the survey learned.

Though most people still consider Mid-Autumn an important traditional festival for family reunions, 40 percent said the way it is celebrated should be adapted for modern times.

(Agencies)

般若灸舍
Boruo Moxibustion House

Boruo Moxibustion House is a traditional Chinese medicine moxibustion health care club which introduces the core technology Fu Yang Moxibustion that is created by famous moxibustion master Mr. Fan Chongwei. Moxibustion therapy is an important part of the ancient traditional Chinese medicine. With a lighted moxa stick, the therapist fumigates certain acupoints over the human body, so as to relax the muscles, warm up qi and accelerate blood circulation. Added with Chinese massage, this therapy helps to improve sleep, relieve pains on neck, shoulders and legs, and drive out the cold inside the human body. Boruo Moxibustion House provides you a tranquil and pure environment where you can enjoy total relaxation. We look forward to serving you.

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Art fever

Market booms as the more buy



Traditional paintings and calligraphy are drawing both appreciators and speculators.

Gao Yuwen/IC Photo

Market explosion

On the evening of June 3, people flocked to the spring auction at the Beijing Poly International Auction to see who would take home a national treasure.

"Di Zhu Ming," a calligraphy piece painted on a hand scroll by Huang Tingjian in the Northern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), began auction at 80 million yuan: it closed at 436.8 million.

That sale marks a historic moment for Chinese art, said Li Xiaowen, art director of Beijing Poly International Auction. Besides "Di Zhu Ming," 12 other pieces sold that night for more than 100 million yuan each.

By contrast, not one piece sold for more than 100 million yuan at last year's spring auction.

The market for contemporary art has developed at an equally feverish pace. Since 2004, prices for works by contemporary artists have risen by 2,000 percent. Paintings that once sold for less than 100,000 yuan now bring in more than 1 million.

"Those who entered the market during the past five years saw prices double with each sale," Li said.

Statistics from Sotheby's, a leading auction house, echoes Li's feelings. In 2006, the company's first New York sale of a Chinese

contemporary piece closed at \$13 million (87 million yuan); the same piece sold again this March for \$23 million.

In April, a contemporary piece auctioned by Sotheby's Hong Kong closed at \$34 million.

spent his last decade in Spain. "Everybody is looking to the East and to China, and the art market isn't any different," he said.

Located in a 2,000-square-meter cement space with soaring ceilings, Huang's gallery is in the center of the 798 district. There

and luxury cars, and now they're looking to enrich their lives, be it with a small jade pendant or a piece of traditional wooden furniture," he said.

Obstacles ahead

But the domestic art market still has some obstacles to overcome when compared to the global market, Huang said.

Though people are buying more, many of the collectors are merely speculating on art, Huang said. "Many collectors are manipulating the auctions house to drive up art costs since real estate and stock manipulation is getting more difficult," he said.

Another major problem is tariffs, which treat all imported art as a luxury good and demand a 33 percent tariff if sold at an art fair in the Chinese mainland. Art sold in Hong Kong and Singapore, by contrast, is tariff free.

"Many industry insiders make their deals elsewhere to avoid paying the tariff," Huang said. "You can find a piece at Poly or China Guardian, then make a deal later in Hong Kong and bring it onto the mainland."

"Reports of this activity have been filed with the relevant government sectors," Huang said, "but this issue involves multiple senior departments and changes can't happen overnight."

"Wealthier Chinese are now looking to enrich their lives, be it with a small jade pendant or a piece of traditional wooden furniture."

The masses buy art

Billionaire collectors in the high-end market cannot create such a boom.

Li attributes the price explosion to demand from the masses. Recent years have seen a remarkable surge in the public's interest in traditional porcelain, bronze ware, ancient wooden furnishings and paintings.

Auction houses like Beijing Poly and China Guardian Auction now arrange quarterly sales of intermediate and low-end art and collectibles.

Huang Ye, manager of Beijing Other Gallery, said he is confident about the future of the art market.

Huang, also an art collector,

are more than 150 similar galleries, exhibiting and selling art that addresses poverty and other social problems.

Huang said he was fascinated by the energy of the art market when he came back. Before 2002, it was forbidden for individuals to own ancient art. "Only government organization and public museums could trade in real antiques," Huang said.

Today there are TV programs featuring celebrities who spread knowledge about traditional art.

Art collection has become a way for wealthier Chinese to show off their family treasures, Huang said.

"We've reached a point where the wealthiest already own villas

Market watch

"If you want to buy paintings, then buy from the masters," said Li Xiaowen, an art director at Beijing Poly International Auction.

Transaction volume from Poly shows that classic works led the spring auction market.

What market art is leading?

"Currently the market demand for Chinese paintings and calligraphy is as stable as a mountain. Such rare works are pursued and admired by collectors," Li said.

The prices of those works are closely tied to quality, and

top works fetch the top prices, she said.

But even with pieces by the same painter, prices can vary depending on period and quality.

Li said that outside the fields of oil painting and sculpture, the historical value of a piece

is emphasized in the market. "Buyers have gradually turned their attention to art with historical significance for their collection and investment," Li said.

A fine piece with an interesting story is most valuable, she said.

Tongrentang sole agent of Wisconsin ginseng

By Zhao Hongyi

Tongrentang Health-Care Pharmaceutical will be the sole mainland agent for ginseng imported from Wisconsin, US, according to a cooperation agreement signed Monday in Beijing.

As the mainland's exclusive importer of Wisconsin ginseng for the next five years, Tongrentang will sell the roots under the company's "President" label, said Yu Jun, the company's general manager.

Wisconsin grows 66 types of ginseng. All will be sold with certificates of origin and registered seals issued by the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin.

Ginseng, popular in East Asia as a health supplement and medicine, is divided into two categories: roots native to northeast China or the Korean peninsula and those native to North America.

Since the 17th century, when ginseng was used by the natives of North America, the root has been traded with China. The trade resumed 20 years ago when US ginseng entered China as a supplement.

But nearly 90 percent of the "North American" ginseng sold on the domestic market is grown locally. And those local roots are far less effective than the ones grown in the native environment, said Kirk Baumann, vice president of the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin.

Baumann said there are Wisconsin ginseng farmers who sell their products to China through other channels, but they are not board certified or allowed to use the Ginseng Board's seal.

Tongrentang sells three labels of ginseng from North America, said Mei Qun, vice chairman and general manager of Tongrentang.

Aside from the "President" brand, reserved for Wisconsin ginseng, it also sells Canadian ginseng and locally farmed North American ginseng.

"Their packages are different, as are their stated origins and prices," Mei said.

Tongrentang is a publicly traded group in China. The pharmaceutical is a subsidiary of a traditional medicine producer with a long history in the capital.

Jet Li's charity fighting for its life

By Zhao Hongyi

Jet Li revealed in a CCTV interview this week that his charity, One Foundation, is having difficulties registering as an independent organization and that it may have to cease operating.

The action star established the foundation in 2007 in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of China. With the aid of mobile phone service providers, One Foundation sends text messages to mobile phone users urging them to donate 1 yuan to the foundation each month.

"China has 700 million mobile phone users," Jet Li said in the CCTV interview, "so you can imagine how big the stage is for charity work."

In the past three years, One Foundation has been involved in a number of charity projects, including emergency relief to victims of the Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008 and the Zhouqu Landslides in Qinghai in April. It is also running programs to help protect the environment, aid impoverished communities in the west and assist children and women in remote areas.

The foundation's working contract with the Red Cross expires at the end of this year and Li has opted to register his organization as an independent charity with the right to solicit public and private donations. The main motivation, Li said, is to open a bank account independent of the Red Cross.

But Li's application has been declined by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, which regulates charity organizations on the mainland.

With few options left, Li has appealed to the central government through the media, saying it should open a "window" that would allow charities like his to survive.

"Thirty years ago, China created such a window in Shenzhen, Shantou, Ximen and Zhuhai as trials for economic reforms," Li said. "We should do the same in the field of charity."



Action star Jet Li speaks at a press conference hosted by the Red Cross in Beijing Tuesday.

Peter Parks/IC Photo

Comment

Government-oriented charity

The government can open a "window" for some people to publicly solicit for their charities while strictly supervising them. It is the individual's responsibility to open his or her eyes to what lies behind an organization. It's the practice in most Western countries.

— Andy Saveberg,
Danish national in Beijing

Charity work with own money

There are a lot of public figures doing charity work and you don't hear any complaints. Look at Jackie Chan, Li Chunping, Chen Guangbiao and Feng Jun, who say they will donate their entire wealth to charity after death. We encourage people interested in charity work to keep earning money or to invest their money rather than to collect from

the public.

Official stamp

It's difficult to do charity work today if you don't have an official stamp. I fully support Jet Li for his courage and forward thinking. The central government needs to improve the Charity Law as soon as possible to enable more people to get involved in charity.

— Lu Jinyue, official

— Xiao Xuan, student

Background

Charity work in China

The central government prohibits private charities from public solicitation. This is reserved exclusively for government agencies and registered public foundations, like the Red Cross, China Youth Charity Foundation and China Women's Charity Foundation.

Observers say the central government's

decision is to prevent unscrupulous individuals and organizations from preying on the public. The existing policy has prevented charities from being implicated in the graft and corruption cases that plague public offices.

Li has said that if he gets a green light from the government, he will hire Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL), one

of world's four leading auditing firms, to make sure One Foundation's books are in order.

Li, 47, born and raised in Beijing, gained international fame in 1986 after starring in the *Shaolin Temple* kung fu series. He then moved to Hong Kong and continued to make blockbusters, including a number of Hollywood films.

Cab cameras cause unease among passengers

By Huang Daohen

Cab passengers in Wuhu, Anhui Province, are feeling uneasy these days as their every word and action are being recorded on camera.

Wuhu traffic authorities ordered the installation of surveillance cameras in the city's taxis in August to ensure the drivers' safety. Yao Aihui, director of Wuhu's taxi management department, told local media that taxi drivers have increasingly become victimized by passengers.

The plan involves installing cameras in at least 3,000 taxis by mid-October. Yao said all video footage will be kept for a

month, and that only police officers will have access to it.

Wuhu residents are not sold on the idea. Many question the legality of the move, saying it is an invasion of privacy. "It makes me uncomfortable. I feel like I'm being watched all the time," a local resident told Xinhua News Agency.

Other cities like Chongqing and Xi'an have followed Wuhu's lead.

The Beijing municipal government says it has no plans to do the same, although at least 60,000 cabs in the city have already installed two-way radios and GPS devices since 2006.



The use of cameras has led to growing concerns over privacy. Wang Hu/CFP Photo

Comment

Pointless

I work for a security firm and honestly believe that security cameras are pointless. It's like waiting at the bottom of a cliff to catch people who jump rather than stopping them on the cliff. Cameras will not stop crimes from happening — they just record them, and the overworked police force will not be able to follow up.

I think the best way to protect taxi drivers is to install a safety window between them and the passengers.

— Li Lin, security-firm employee

No big deal

I don't see what the fuss is all about. In Los Angeles, cabs have cameras installed, primarily to protect drivers' safety. This probably also reduces incidents of pas-

sengers running off without paying the fare. If you're not doing anything illegal, what's the harm?

— Matthew, IT engineer

Privacy violated

Cab passengers pay extra for the exclusive use of the car, and the new policy violates their rights. But if the cameras are in public places, I don't see a problem.

— Karen Zhang, office secretary

Exclusively for police use

Considering the rising number of crime cases against taxi drivers, I think it is necessary to install surveillance cameras. It's a way to show appreciation to the drivers. I do not mind being filmed if the footage is only for police use.

— Xiao Xiao, PR consultant

Couple writes first French book on contemporary Chinese art



Anny Lazarus and Laurent Septier

Photo provided by Anny Lazarus

By Liang Meilan

The first French book on contemporary Chinese art was released on the mainland at Novotel Peace Hotel Saturday.

Chin/Art Contemporain/Pekin 11 Parcours (China/Contemporary Art/Beijing 11 routes) was published in June after two years of research by Laurent Septier and his wife Anny Lazarus.

"In two years, we visited a hundred places and talked to people from diverse backgrounds, which expanded and deepened my understanding of Chinese art," said Lazarus, 58, a retired teacher at La Villa Arson, a research institution in Nice, France, who is now writing her

doctoral thesis on Chinese contemporary art criticism.

"I started studying Chinese 20 years ago and became interested in Chinese culture," she said. "I read translations of Chinese art criticism and later realized there was no research in France on the comparative study of Western and Chinese contemporary art," a gap which her book in part tries to fill.

The book consists of four parts, the largest section of which focuses on the history of contemporary Chinese art and its representative pieces.

The publisher, Image en Manoeuvres Editions, came up with the idea for the book to "provide the first concise account of the

history of contemporary Chinese art," said Septier, 57, who remains at La Villa Arson as a professor of fine art.

"With this first ever book on the history of Chinese contemporary art, people can know more about this promising group of Chinese artists and their works," he said.

Another section introduces important aspects of Chinese culture, including Taoism, *The Book of Changes* and Chinese cuisine.

"This part is for Western readers to better understand the mindset and ideas of Chinese artists, and see what lies behind art from other cultures," Septier said.

The book also doubles as a

travel guidebook, introducing 11 routes to explore Beijing's art district and art galleries.

"I love the atmosphere at 798 Art District," said Septier. "When I first went there in 1999, it was astonishing to see a handful of artists working on contemporary art projects. I could see enthusiasm and courage in the faces of those young people ... who dared to make original things."

Septier and Lazarus first came to China in 1986 and have since made numerous trips back.

"In 2001, I was appointed by my university as visiting professor to conduct art exchange programs such as exhibitions to be held in cooperation with prestigious art schools in China, like

the fine art academies in Guangzhou, Sichuan and Hangzhou," Septier said, adding that he eventually chose Beijing's 798 and Songzhuang art districts as his research base.

He recalled watching two independent art films in a run-down house in 2001. "It was amazing to see such skillful art made," Septier said. "At the time I could barely speak any Chinese, and Yang Fudong, the artist, spoke little English. But the powerful and meaningful film connected our minds. Since then, we've become good friends," he said, thinking about how far he and Lazarus have gone in China in the past 25 years.

Nobel laureates emphasize China's role in US economy

By He Jianwei

Two Nobel prize-winning economists from the University of Chicago praised China's economic growth and discussed its trade relations with the US, during a forum celebrating the opening of the University of Chicago Center in Beijing Wednesday.

"There are many existing problems in economy. China's rapid growth is the most challenging for us," said Gary Becker, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1992.

Becker, who first visited China for a lecture in 1981, calls China's economic growth in the past 30 years a "miracle."

"My experience told me that if the per capita income rises 1 percent every year, the country's GDP would double in 75 years," he said, remembering a thought he had back in the '80s. "But China has doubled its GDP in nine to 10 years."

Becker identified three sig-



James Heckman



Gary Becker

Photos provided by MS&L

nificant factors for the country's economic success – the encouragement of competition, free trade and education – and pointed out that state-owned enterprises' contribution to GDP has declined in the past 10 to 15 years.

Still, James Heckman, the Nobel economics laureate in

2000, worried about the monopoly of state-owned enterprises. "During the economic recession, the banks still wanted to give loans to state-owned enterprises," he said.

China's export-driven economy has earned the country the label of the "world factory," a role that largely defines its trade

relations with the US. Becker and Heckman urged US politicians to restrain from imposing punitive measures on Chinese goods, calling it both unwise and useless.

"What I do worry about is that there has been a lot of talking about taxing the Chinese and punishing them," Heckman said.

He also said that the US' current problems with high unemployment and a staggering deficit stem from unwise policies that finance consumption and impose large tax cuts.

"There is an issue that China and the rest of the world have to be worried about: How much will America continue to live beyond its means and whether America has the political will to solve the problem," he said.

Heckman said that the US' soft-money policy and consumption patterns were not sustainable and had to be adjusted, but "we don't even have a serious dis-

cussion about the nature of the deficit problem in America."

"It is easy to attack China, and so many people in the US will say it is the Chinese who are responsible for the lack of jobs, but they don't look at the deep structural questions."

Becker echoed the sentiments, saying the US should take responsibility for its problems. "The US has a very low savings rate, which has contributed in a very important manner to its current difficult situation and the global financial crisis."

The economists called for caution, as some quarters suggest that China sell its vast holdings of US treasuries, which makes up two-thirds of its \$2.45 trillion (16 trillion yuan) in international reserves.

"If China dumps a lot of US dollars, that would be unwise, because that would create a currency crisis in the currency market," Becker said.

Cologne carnival shows another side of Germans



Hohner, the six-member folk band, is a highlight of the carnival.

Photos provided by Jiang Sihang

By Liang Meilan

The Cologne carnival, which comes to town tomorrow, will surely upend notions of Germans as a staid and humorless people.

The carnival is the highlight of tomorrow's Cologne Culture Day, which will feature various cultural activities across Beijing.

"The Cologne carnival is a traditional annual event that includes joyful stage shows, street carnivals and masquerades," said Fritz Hayek, Cologne's economic ambassador. "For the Rose Monday parade, people dress in colorful folk costumes while waiting for flowers and sweets to be thrown from the floats."

Hayek said the carnival will show the Chinese people a different side of Germans. "People in other countries hold the view that German people lack a sense of humor. Actually, merrymaking



Fritz Hayek

is in our blood," he said. "We're bringing our carnival spirit here to let the Chinese people know more about the true character of our people."

On the same day, Red Spark, the Cologne carnival's largest dance troupe, will be staging its

most popular folk dances and musical performances at the National Center for the Performing Arts.

The troupe will be joined by Hohner, a six-member folk band from Cologne and a carnival regular. Hohner, formed in 1972,

plays a mix of folk, pop and rock'n'roll and Cologne's traditional songs.

The venue will also host a carnival photo exhibition. A 3-meter-high model of the Cologne Cathedral will be the exhibition's centerpiece.

"The linking of Beijing and Cologne as sister cities has greatly promoted economic cooperation," said German Ambassador Michael Schaefer. "Though Cologne is not the German capital, its great potential has encouraged many Chinese companies to open branches there. These recent years have also seen deeper dialogues between the two sides in areas like city management and environment preservation."

Cologne Culture Day is being organized by the municipal governments and cultural exchange institutions of Cologne and Beijing, declared sister cities in 1987.

Austrian minister planning more art exchanges

By Li Zhixin

The Austrian minister of culture and education said the country plans to promote residency projects for Chinese artists to encourage dialogue between artists from the two countries.

"Chinese artists are very dynamic," said Minister Claudia Schmeid during a visit to the 798 Art District Sunday. "We plan to promote artist residencies so that more Chinese artists can come to Austria and do work there."

"In addition to improving exchanges in contemporary art, we're also working on collaborations in preserving culture heritage sites," she said.

Schmeid said Austria will continue to deepen cultural exchanges with China, which will include more performances here by Austrian orchestras and bringing Peking Opera shows to Vienna.

The minister also aims to promote Chinese language studies among Austrians. "With China's strong and steady development, Chinese has become one of the



Dr. Claudia Schmeid visits 798 Art District.

Photo provided by Xiao Ge

most important languages in the world, yet only 200 to 300 Austrians are studying Chinese at the moment," Schmeid said.

On Monday, Schmeid

attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Contemporary Art Biennale, which features an exhibition of works by young Austrian artists.

During her four-day stay in China, Schmeid also held talks with Chinese education officials on vocational training in tourism, fashion and the Internet.

1,000 French companies seek opportunity in China

By Liang Meilan

At least 1,150 French companies will be visiting China during the next three months to explore fresh opportunities, especially in the new energy industry, said the French trade commission.

"These French enterprises will come and visit China to further understand the local market and develop business relationships through trade visits and trade shows," Alain Cousin, head of UBIFRANCE, the government agency overseeing international trade, told chinaeconomy.cn.

Cousin said conducting direct dialogue between French and Chinese firms is the most effective way to promote bilateral trade, and that 85 percent of Sino-French trade shows are organized by the agency.

"We attach great importance to and invest a lot in the research and discussions to find Chinese partners for French enterprises, which saves them time and money in exploring business opportunities in China," he said.

Besides expanding Sino-French cooperation in traditional industries, UBIFRANCE is spearheading collaborations in new energy. "A new way to bring French enterprises into China is by introducing industry clusters, and the most promising industry right now is new energy," Cousin said. "As one of the strongest new-energy producers in the world, France can provide China with technical support."

Cooperation in the nuclear energy industry comprises only 1 percent of the countries' bilateral trade, but France sees it as a growth area. "Though the past 20 years saw giant French firms such as Group Areva and Electricit  de France set foot in China, there is still more room for smaller enterprises to explore," said Vincent Perrin, deputy director of the commercial counselor's office at the French Embassy in Beijing.

He said UBIFRANCE will lead a delegation of small- and medium-sized French companies at a nuclear energy seminar in Shenzhen in April.

To date, more than 1,000 French firms have established administrative offices in China, third only in number to the US and Germany. About 35 percent of French companies in China are located in Shanghai, 20 percent in Beijing and 8 percent in Guangzhou, according to data from the French national assembly.

The General Administration of Customs in China ranks France as China's fourth largest European trade partner, next to Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. In 2009, the volume of Sino-French trade reached \$34.48 billion (231 billion yuan).



Beijing's first Tresor party attracted many beautiful young people who like dancing and electronic music.

Berlin's Tresor club holds first party in town

By Wang Yu

The steady rain and monstrous traffic jam last Friday could not keep dance fans away from 798 Art District's Centre d'art Au Nom de la Rose. Tresor, the legendary underground techno nightclub and record label from Berlin, was holding its first party in town with the top German disk jockeys such as Pacou, Tobias Thomas and Hans Nieswandt in attendance.

"Tresor has actually already been in China for several months," said Wang Pan, a staff member of Tresor's Beijing office. "It took a lot of preparation to bring these top DJs to the party, but all the hard work is worth it," she said.

The electronic music and accompanying videos began playing at 10 pm, but it wasn't until midnight when the dance floor filled with dancers. The revelry would last until 6 am the next day.

"The venue is awesome! The music is great and mood is right. This is one of the best electronic music parties I've ever



At Tresor party last Friday

Photos provided by Tresor.Berlin

been to in Beijing," said Twiggy Song, editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine's Chinese edition.

Centre d'art Au Nom de la Rose, like other art galleries at 798 Art District, is a renovated mid-20th century factory. But its interior highlights the building's past: bare, unpainted walls with pipes zigzagging through. Chairs were fashioned from

beds in the workers' dormitories. Add a stage, a huge screen, electronic musical instruments and the place oozes Tresor's underground spirit.

Tresor was established by Dimitri Hegemann in 1991, in the cellar of an abandoned bank building on an old East Berlin street. Clubbers reveled in the electronic music, and energy and potential that came from the reunification of East and West Berlin two years earlier. Tresor quickly became known as the best place in Berlin for electric music. Soon an eponymous record label followed.

"Hegemann has traveled to Beijing and likes the city very much. He said Beijing is very similar to Berlin for its energy and creativity," Wang said.

In 2004 the documentary *Tresor Berlin: The Vault and the Electronic Frontier* was released. This film has been shown on the mainland several times and will be rescreened at the Music Funhill Festival at Fangshan District next week.

Event

Introduction to conversational Chinese

Dulwich College Beijing is offering a basic course in Chinese conversation to be conducted by Isa Zang, a teacher from Chinese Classroom training center.

Where: Dulwich College Beijing – Legend Garden Campus, 89 Shoudujichang Lu (Capital Airport Road), Chaoyang District

When: Every Friday starting today, 2:30-3:30 pm

Tel: 6454 9127

Cost: 70 yuan per class

Global Mandarin talent contest

Radio Beijing Corporation is holding a monthly talent contest for foreigners until November 30. Participants must be foreign nationals of non-Chinese ethnicity and be able to tell a story clearly in Chinese or display skill in the Chinese language. Applicants should submit a demo reel showing their talent. Original works are encouraged. Winners will be given a Chinese culture trip.

Where: Radio Beijing Corporation, 14 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until November 30

Tel: 6515 5837

Cost: Free

Vaccination drive for pets

To commemorate World Rabies Day on September 28, the International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) will be hosting a rabies awareness seminar tomorrow. The center will also conduct vaccination drives till the 28.

Where: ICVS, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang District

When: September 25-28, 8 am – 8 pm

Tel: 8456 1939

Cost: Free

Fair trade in China

A social networking organization will be discussing fair trade in China at its monthly meeting tomorrow. Guest speakers at the event, co-organized by Penghao Theater, are social entrepreneurs Nathan Zhang and Liu Jianhang.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmi-anhua Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: September 25, 1-6 pm

Tel: 6551 3348

Cost: 40 yuan, includes a drink

(By Liang Meilan)

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Wanted: animal blood

Capital sees growing need for pet blood transfusion

By Annie Wei

On a scorching summer day in June, Gao Zi, a 30-year-old Taiping Life Insurance agent, felt like weeping as he watched his 2-year-old airedale terrier Leo bleed uncontrollably.

Seventy-two hours earlier, Gao discovered blood oozing from Leo's nose as the dog expelled blood-tinged urine. Gao immediately drove Leo to Wawa Pet Hospital at Panjiayuan Bridge.

But Leo's condition only worsened. The veterinarian at Wawa told Gao there was nothing they could do.

As a last resort, Gao called an aunt who was also a dog owner. She told him to try Tongzhou Yongshun, another pet hospital.

Leo was diagnosed with heat-induced internal organ damage. Veterinarians ordered an immediate blood transfusion. Gao's aunt donated some blood from her dog. Half a month later, Leo was discharged from the hospital.

Gao's biggest lesson from the experience: find a pet hospital that considers an animal's life as important as a human being's, and which can conduct blood transfusions.



Pets have started to become members of more and more Chinese families.

Lu Beifeng/CFP

Pet owners' urban myth

But An Xu, 28, an advertising media buyer with Dentsu, would rather forget about the blood transfusion her dog needed because of kidney failure. She thought the procedure was "extremely brutal" and that "hospitals should not encourage pet owners to take other pets' blood."

Thousands of pet websites hotly contested the idea of animal blood transfusions.

"It's not blood donation, it's called vampiric sucking," one post said.

"In order to save his pet, some owners purchased strays or stolen others' dogs and killed them by taking more blood than was allowable," another claimed.

Liu De, dean of Tongzhou Yongshun Pet Hospital and a veterinarian of 11 years, said blood transfusions are perfectly safe, if done properly. "For a cat recipient who weighs 3 kilograms, 35 to 50 milliliters of blood is enough. Taking 35 milliliters of blood from a cat that weighs 5 kilograms will not bring any hurt to the donor."

Like human beings, pets – especially dogs – require transfusions in medical emergencies, Liu said. Donating blood at established animal hospitals and following guidelines will ensure the donor and recipient are not harmed, he said.

Taking advantage of stray animals for their blood sounds like an urban myth since transfusions are more complicated than they sound. "When you find a donor dog and bring it to the pet hospital, you first need to have

blood typing done and then matched to see compatibility with the recipient," Liu said.

Canines have more blood types than humans and therefore their blood is harder to match, the doctor said. Dogs have 11 blood types and if the types do not match, the recipient will develop a sensitization to the antigens in the donor's blood, which can be more life-threatening, Liu said.

The donor must also be tested for blood-borne diseases and antibodies.



Lu Beifeng/CFP

Sources of blood

The service of pet hospitals in Beijing has improved a lot since 2006, Liu said. Veterinarians examine the animals not only with their hands but "instead, a lot of hospitals have introduced high-tech equipment and do lab exams to diagnose diseases," he said.

Also, some of the top pet hospitals in town keep a dog or two to respond to emergency transfusions. "Blood donors should be healthy, so hospitals take care of them with nutritious food," Liu said.

Other options would be to ask for blood donations from a friend

or relative's pet, or to buy some from a pet farm.

Although the need for animal transfusions is increasing, no organization has yet set up a blood bank. "This is a challenge to the existing mindset," Liu said, referring to Chinese pet

owners who still cannot conjure the thought of donating their pet's blood.

Liu said there used to be a local company that dealt in dog blood serum, but it closed shop. "There was not enough business, I think."

Call for donors

"Everything takes time," said Mary Peng, manager of Beijing's International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS). In the US, where Peng comes from, she said that canine blood transfusions and pet blood banks are still a new industry.

The States follows two models. The first is the commercial model in which pets "bank" blood that can be sold to animal hospitals. "It is a strictly controlled industry," Peng said. Such blood banks are highly regulated and super-

vised by the government.

"Having six dogs in a so-called farm and selling their blood is not legal in the US," she said.

The other model is a non-profit one, like hemopet.org, which has been around for more than two decades. It rescues greyhound dogs discarded by the racing industry and finds a family to adopt them. Before these dogs are transferred to their new home, the healthy ones give blood to shelters run by animal hospitals.

Still, Peng concedes that the industry in the US still has a long way to go and needs to be regulated by more laws.

Meanwhile, ICVS is encouraging owners to donate their pet's blood – just like the center's personnel and clients have done. "All our hospital's staff members are willing to donate if their pet's blood is suitable," Peng said.

She said dog donors should be healthy and have a reliable medical record. For example, she said, a donor should not have been a

recipient because of blood purity concerns; it should be between 1 and 6 years old and weigh 25 to 26 kilograms – cats should be between 4.5 and 5 kilograms.

A large breed adopted by Frank Fan, another ICVS manager, has donated blood three times in the past five years. Peng's two cats have also been blood donors.

"We also have many warm-hearted clients who are willing to help, and most of them are Chinese," Peng said.

Recommended animal hospitals

Beijing Tongzhou Yongshun Dongwu Yiyan

Where: 166 Jiukeshu Xi Lu, Tongzhou District
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 8151 2969 and 6052 4252

Web: bjdwyw.cn

International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS)

Where: Kent Center, 29 Lianmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang District

Open: Monday to Saturday, 8 am – 8 pm; Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm

Tel: 8456 1939/40/41
Web: ICVSasia.com

Today Art takes o

By He Jianwei

Following a traumatic 20th century, the new millennium has offered little hope for a better future.

The 21st century has seen more events that are shocking than pleasantly surprising: the 9/11 terrorist attacks, a destructive "war on terror" in Afghanistan and Iraq, nuclear proliferation on the Korean peninsula, global natural disasters, diseases and economic recession.

But more saddening, no area of culture seems safe from the effects of globalization. Yet while every region is absorbing and assimilating other cultures, there are efforts to preserve uniqueness.

Artists involved in *The Second Today's Documents 2010* opened an exhibition last Saturday that uses visual language to intervene in political, cultural and life issues.



1. Zhang Huan's installation, "Dawn of Time," adapts the Biblical creation narrative to China's modernization.

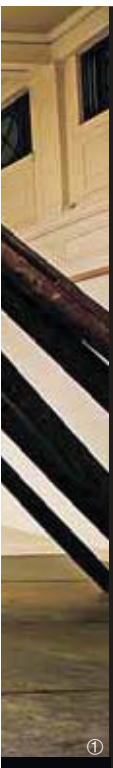
2. Pakistani female artists Hurmat ul Ain and Rabhya Naseer created a video installation "White as Snow," challenging the traditional attitude toward women in the Islamic world.

Photos provided by Today Art Museum

"The result of negotiation is co-existence. Economic development is inclined to push societies in one direction. However, these do not converge, but progress in parallel with each other on their own traditional paths."

— Huang

n globalization



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y Du, curator

On the square in front of Today Art Museum is Liu Wei's large installation "Out-cast." The display uses discarded and smashed antique doors and windows to create a new space enclosing the tables and chairs common to modern meeting rooms.

The display is intended to convey the artist's skepticism and criticism of modernity, capital expansion and individual rights.

Negotiation is the theme of this year's *Documents*, a yearly exhibition that began in 2007. Huang Du and Jonathan Watkins co-curated the 72 artists and art groups: 46 from China and 26 from abroad.

"At many exhibitions, we focus on selecting artists from Britain, France, Germany and the US and ignore artists from Latin America, Africa and East Asia," Huang said. "But those from developing regions share many experiences with Chinese artists. We want to see how they intervene with reality through their art."

Like many developing countries, China is being integrated into the global system. While some of the successes of modernity are worthy of praise, with them comes an array of complex social issues.

Imbalanced development leaving large swaths of the country in poverty, a severe disparity in wealth, ecological crisis and the materialistic corrosion of people's spirit are only a few of these issues.

Huang invited Italian artist Jannis Kounellis, the master of *arte povera*, who made a large-scale installation "Harbor of Tianjin," especially for this exhibition.

The piece consists of more than 10 copper panels that overlap to form a warm, glowing red copper wall. On top of each panel hangs a ragged jute bag half full of lumps of coal.

"Kounellis employs his usual creative concepts, exploring material relationships – soft and rigid, natural and artificial, fluid and solid," Huang said. "The modern is transformed from the traditional and it is impossible not to find traces of the traditional in the modern."

During his recent stay in China this year for creative inspiration, he explored the dialectic relationship between materials – how industrial, simple and widely available materials could be incorporated in his piece.

But with similar goals to express respect and recognition of tradition and other cultures, Chinese artist Zhang Huan utilizes a different language.

Zhang's installation, "Dawn of Time," adapts the Biblical creation narrative to China's process of modernization. These bricks are unloaded off a truck and a startled pony stands in space, seeking a place for survival.

"China has become a testing ground for architects from all over the world. Construction is everywhere," Zhang said. "But the situation has made some of us wonder whether our children's children will see that we lacked vision and compassion for their generation by ruining the air, water, animals, plants and their health."

Unlike Chinese artists, many foreign artists chose to "negotiate" political, religious and sexual issues.

Two Pakistani female artists Hurnat

ul Ain and Rabbya Naseer created a video installation "White as Snow," challenging the traditional attitude toward women in the Islamic world.

The video features the two artists sitting against a bare white wall and narrating personal facts in short sentences, like a rhythmic chorus sung in Urdu.

"I am a woman. I am 24 years old. I live in Lahore, a city of Pakistan. My religion is Islam. I have six members in my family. I have two brothers and a sister. I have BA degree. I love reading books. My best friend is Ayesha. My father goes to the office. My mother is a housewife. My favorite color is pink. I cook very delicious carrot pudding."

The rhythm attending each line is accompanied by a gentle rocking of the torso and occasional swaying of the heads sideways.

Ain and Naseer act as obedient women in the video to exemplify how personal female moral values are determined by society's approved behaviors.

"Acceptable or desirable conduct for women is established by a combination of social judgments and perceived Islamic prescriptions, raising concerns about the construction of an individual self and its relationship with social expectations," Naseer said.

They illustrate how the constant sacrifice of self-interest for social acceptability and the eventual living through role playing has taught women to be victims, summarizing a woman's life as a tedious cycle of longing for companionship and waiting for something to happen, rather than designing a life for herself.

An Algerian artist Adel Abdessemed, who was driven from his homeland for political reasons to live in Paris, Berlin and New York, wades into the debate on animal rights, terrorism, sex, politics and religion.

His video "Prostitute" involves the transcription of three holy books, the Torah, the Bible's New Testament and the Quran, by sex workers to test the authenticity of religious claims to unconditional love.

Palestinian artist Ahlam Shibli conveys sympathy for those who are marginalized. In her early works in 1990s, she focused on her own community living in towns unrecognized by the Israeli government.

This exhibition shows her recent photos taken in London, Zurich, Barcelona and Tel Aviv, documenting the lifestyles of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who migrated there from the East.

"The result of negotiation is coexistence. Economic development is inclined to push societies in one direction. However, these societies do not converge, but progress in parallel with each other down their own traditional paths," Huang said.

Negotiations

The Second Today's Documents 2010

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingdang Community, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 24, daily, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 5876 0600



Italian artist Jannis Kounellis explores material relationships – soft and rigid, natural and artificial, fluid and solid.



Palestinian artist Ahlam Shibli documents the lifestyles of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who migrated to London, Zurich, Barcelona and Tel Aviv from the East. (Above two)

The dark history of the Wild West

By Charles Zhu

Christopher Corbett, a journalist teaching at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, has undone generations of mythology shrouding the curious stories of Chinese "poker brides" in his book *The Poker Bride: The First Chinese in the Wild West*.

"Long after blacks were freed in the US, practices involving Chinese women were tolerated in California and elsewhere in the American West that were, in essence, bondage," Corbett writes.

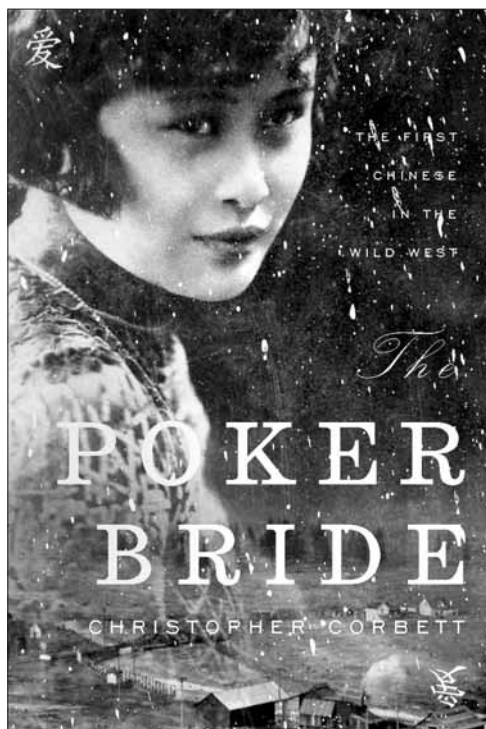
During the decades following the California Gold Rush, Chinese wives were prohibited from joining their husbands in the US: the only women allowed in were those who received a nod from official liaisons who ensured they were bound for the sex industry.

"During the early 1890s, prices ranged from about \$100 for a 1-year-old to \$1,200 for a girl of 14, which was considered the best age for prostitution," Corbett writes. These "daughters of joy" were seen as inferior to white women in the class system of prostitutes.

One was Polly Bemis, a Chinese woman born in the Pearl River Delta in the early 1870s and the focus of Corbett's book.

While at a young age, Polly was sold by her poor parents to slave traders who roamed the countryside looking for pretty girls to sell in the California sex trade. Though a tiny 100 pounds, Polly was worth more than her weight in gold.

She was soon shipped off to San Francisco, where she and other young women were kept in "holding pens" while they awaited auction in the burgeoning sex trade, an industry every bit as lucrative as opium



The Poker Bride: The First Chinese in the Wild West
By Christopher Corbett, 240pp, Atlantic Monthly Press, \$24

smuggling and gambling.

Some were sold as concubines and others to "cribs" or "hog ranches" – huts partitioned by curtains where the women were forced to service many men each night.

After being traded as a concubine several times, Polly – who had her feet bound like noble girl's – was purchased by a wealthy Chinese merchant living in a mining town in the

Idaho Territory. Soon after her arrival, she was lost again to a new owner during a high-stakes poker match.

Her new and final owner was Charlie Bemis, a gambler and saloonkeeper from Connecticut who settled in the Idaho Territory. When Bemis was badly injured in a shootout over a gold claim, Polly nursed him back to health.

Soon after, he made a deci-

sion almost unheard of: he married Polly.

Bemis may have married her to reduce the risk that she would be deported back to China as part of the Geary Act of 1892, which required Chinese in the US to carry residency permits. In those days, when racist labor agitators were organizing "Chinese Must Go" rallies and the Chinese Exclusion Act was in force, Polly was one of the few who stayed in the US.

In 1923, after Bemis' death, Polly rode on horseback to the central Idaho town of Grangeville, her first visit to town. Already an old woman, it was her first trip out from the remote Salmon River Canyon where she had lived for 50 years. She had never seen a train, been to a movie or ridden in a car, and was regarded as a mysterious Rip Van Winkle of the modern times.

Corbett's book is also a history of the ups and downs of the first Chinese immigrants to arrive in the American West. He provides a comprehensive panoramic view of the appalling discrimination the immigrants suffered, and offers terrible tales of violence and sexual exploitation.

The Chinese, who were willing to work for low wages, were accused of stealing jobs from Americans and were portrayed as "thieving, shifty and untrustworthy."

The book closes with a photo showing Polly at her ranch home. She is with two horses and a basket at her feet. Her hair is done neatly in a bun, and she is dressed in a cotton dress that is covered by an apron.

She looks like an American woman in the Wild West – except for her face.

Trends Lounge book listing

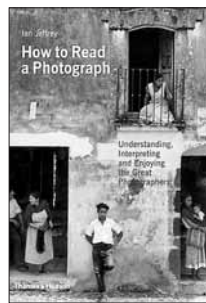
Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of international art, design and architecture books.



Diane Arbus: An Aperture Monograph

Edited by Doon Arbus and Marvin Israel, 184pp, Aperture, 300 yuan

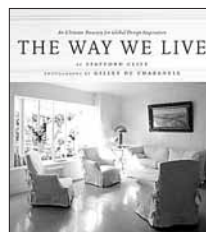
Born in New York in 1923, Diane Arbus began taking pictures in the early 1940s. Her first published photographs appeared in *Esquire* in 1960. In 1963 and 1966 she was awarded Guggenheim Fellowships for her project on "American Rites, Manners, and Customs." She traveled across the country, photographing the people, places and events she described as "the considerable ceremonies of our present."



How to Read a Photograph

By Ian Jeffery, 384pp, Thames & Hudson, 239 yuan

Ian Jeffery provides essential biographical and historical background to help readers understand more than 100 great photographers, including Alfred Stieglitz, Bill Brandt, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Walker Evans, Paul Strand and Lazlo Moholy-Nagy.



The Way We Live: An Ultimate Treasury for Global Design Inspiration

By Stafford Cliff, 480pp, Clarkson Potter, 259 yuan

From coastal hamlet to urban center, design expert Stafford Cliff compares architectural styles and decorating details from every corner of the world, whether it is a modest adobe dwelling, whose contours complement those of the earth, or a skyscraper of glass and steel that contrasts with the natural terrain. The ingenuity of each culture shines through in its instinctive use of colors and materials.

(By He Jianwei)

Shanghai photo duo captures vanishing community

By He Jianwei

Xincun, also known as New Village, is an old residential community built around state-supported housing. But with increasing urbanization, many parts of the former industrial community are being bulldozed into history.

The Shanghai photography duo Birdhead, consisting of Sun Tao and Ji Weiye, spent 15 months documenting the community in photos from December 2005 to February 2007. Their collection captures the vanishing cityscape and daily life for its residents – scenes juxtaposed against destruction.

Sun and Ji met at the Shanghai Industrial Art Institute in 1998. After graduating in 2000, Ji went to the UK and Song stayed in Shanghai. During the following two years, Ji photographed London and

Song focused on Shanghai.

They traded their work over MSN Messenger.

When Ji returned to Shanghai in 2004, they spent two weeks editing and sorting their photos into *The Beginning of Summer*, their first album in collaboration.

When they tried to build a new document to collect the photos, they randomly mashed keys and picked the first two Chinese characters that displayed: bird and head. The compound became the name of their collaboration.

After their first joint album, Sun and Ji decided to make a new album each year.

In 2005, when they learned their community was scheduled for demolition, they began the Xincun project.

Their book tells of the happiness and sorrow of life in

the community. In their pictures, the dark-green scaffolds are removed and mounted; the cement columns of the viaducts offer shade; and the huge posters on the walls of old houses revealed their childhood.

"Our hearts are filled with love and sadness," Song said, recalling the vanishing village.

Their lengthy album consists of 500 pictures. "I don't think we can convey something from one picture. A book where the pictures are presented in series says a lot more," he said.

The photographers' neighborhood has long since been wiped out to make way for the World Expo Park. Their first photos of it were posted online in an album called Xincun as a remembrance of those who lived in the community and a reflection of the nation and times.



Xincun
By Birdhead, 461pp, 310 Publishing, 360 yuan

Social networking from meatspace

By Wang Yu

Young people are reaching for their cell phones as soon as they enter a shopping mall or take a seat at a restaurant with friends. It may seem like an odd place for a phone call, but calling is not what they're doing: most are updating their location on Jiebang.com.

The new Chinese location-based social networking site is fast becoming the trendiest online hub. It bridges the gap between online persona and real life by informing friends of where you go when you're away from the keyboard.

The service is similar to Foursquare, the location-based social network in the US, but Jiebang's move to ship its software on popular Chinese phones is bringing it an even larger core audience in a very short time.

Sharing your location

Amy Zhang, a music promoter, uses Jiebang's Apple App on her iPhone to share her location with friends when her QQ status is marked "Offline."

Zhang joined the network after she was invited by a friend. While she had heard of Foursquare, location-based social networking was a new experience as the famous US-based site is blocked in China.

But it wasn't until she linked her Jiebang account to her Sina micro blog and accounts on Renren and Kaixin that she realized the power of location-based networking.

"One time I got stuck in a traffic jam during rush hour. When one of my friends saw my location on the site, she called me to meet for dinner and wait out the traffic. I think that's why people around me are getting so into this service – it brings friends together wherever they are," Zhang says.

Jiebang offers apps

for iPhone and Android-based phones that simplify the process of making updates. Android phones manufactured by HTC come pre-installed with Jiebang's software.

Zhang says that at last weekend's dinner party, all of the guests were checking in on Jiebang even before they opened the menu.

"It was kind of strange to see everyone updating their online characters while sitting together around the table, but it's hard to leave a habit behind," Zhang says.

'Foursquare of China'

"We used software to name the site. All of us agreed that two-character names work best, so we made a program to combine them at random. We chose Jiebang from more than 800 combinations," says David Liu, Jiebang's founder.

Liu, a Chinese American, moved to Taiwan two years ago to work for a computer hardware maker. Thinking his career was due for a reboot, he came to Beijing in late 2009.

Liu built his first social networking site to organize offline events during his senior year of college. Seeing a void of similar services in China, he decided to pounce on the opportunity with Yang Yuanchi, a native resident.

"We met at a Starbucks in Wudaokou. It wasn't long before we realized we shared the same vision of building a location-

based social network," Liu says.

Yang, who before starting Jiebang had worked for Baidu and Douban, had considerable experience in developing Internet products.

The original Jiebang team drew together friends from IT, music and the arts. After three months, the site went live in May and its name spread like wildfire in the media.

July marked the opening of Apple's largest store, located in Pudong, Shanghai. Jiebang organized a check-in event together with apple4.us, an Apple fan site, and the geek T-shirt brand DaCode. Users received a free DaCode T-shirt after checking in from their mobile phones.

Another successful promotion that spread the Jiebang brand was a Nike promotion at Dongdan basketball court. More than 500 users checked in at the venue to win a free Nike T-shirt.

"The Nike cooperation was our first with a big brand. They had similar ideas about connecting netizens for offline events, but it wasn't something they wanted to develop a website for," Liu says.

Fit for mainstream

"Early on we polled 20 people about the site to see what they thought of our idea. The good response kept us going," Liu says.

China has few location-based social networks, and most are in their infancy. Like most overseas sites, foreign networks have struggled to adapt to the Chinese market. Liu attributes Jiebang's success to its domestic origins and diverse background, with team members

drawn from non-IT fields like art and music.

Jiebang has 60,000 registered users in China and the number is growing rapidly. Unlike social networking sites, location-based services are focused on offline life.

"Western users tend to be more open and willing to share their location. But Chinese users often prefer to keep their tracks a secret, and so we offer the user an option to keep his or her check-in information private," Liu says.

But Jiebang does not want to become a lone service. One of its core goals is to be integrated into its users' existing social networks.

"When I first used Foursquare, I was asking the same question [as many users], Why should anyone check in? Users have to have active people in their networks to stay interested. Even now, we worry more about how connected our users are than how many registered users we have," Liu says.

But regardless of hype and fashion, location-based social networks are still a niche marketing tool, and many fickle users rapidly lose interest after discovering the tool. Liu and



David Liu and his young team are making Jiebang the most popular offline social networking site. Photo by Song Nannan

his team are working on developing more products to keep users interested in Jiebang after the initial interest fades.

"I think these location-based social networks will become a more important part of life as more people browse the Internet from their mobile phones. They can be an essential communication tool when offline," Liu says.





Makeup Forever's false eyelashes, 150 yuan a pair

Beauty by the strand

Cool weather fashion focuses on eyelashes

By Liang Meilan

Which part of the body can women highlight as the weather cools and they have no choice but to cover up from head to foot? Why, the eyelashes, of course!

Any teenage girl who has experimented with makeup knows that the first step to making eyes look bigger – and more beautiful – is by curling the lashes. Those going for maximum impact can use fake eyelashes or eyelash “plants.”

The eye area is very sensitive, so quality-tested products and proper application procedures are a must. Below are some tips to prepare lashes for a more fashionable autumn and winter!

Curl to open

Tired of the daily routine of curling lashes with a curler, many busy office ladies have opted for an eyelash perm at a beauty salon. The procedure guarantees curly lashes for up to three months.

Eyelash perming requires using chemicals and electronic tools, so safety demands choosing a salon certified to do it.

The procedure can be done on both long and short lashes. The secret to eyelash charm is in choosing the size of the curl.

Those who want a perm that will go the distance should go with smaller curls, say beauticians, as the curls gradually become larger with time. Also, small curls have a more dramatic effect at the beginning, they say.

People blessed with long and thick lashes should get larger curls for a more natural look, the experts say.

Lashes are much more fragile shortly after perming, so special care is needed. A day after the procedure, use only cool water to wash the face, and prevent the face from being exposed to hot or warm air or vapor.

Mascara should not be applied to the lashes within three days after perming, because the action of the mascara wand can damage curls that have not fully settled.

To make the perm last longer, apply moisturizer and protein-rich repair cream, which are available from salons and department stores.

Note however that lash perming is not for everyone. Liquid chemicals are used to perm the lashes, so people who have very sensitive skin around the eye area should avoid this procedure.

Most beauty salons offer this service and charge starting from 50 yuan.

Enhancing the real thing

Long and flare-out false eyelashes, created by Max Factor in 1919, are adored by partygoers and stage performers all around the world as they exaggerate the eyes and create drama.

Needless to say, they were not for daily wear as they were tricky to apply and screamed “fake!” They were made of plastic-like fiber that looked unwieldy.



Eyelashes planting costs at least 150 yuan per procedure

CFP Photos

The history of false eyelashes took a turn in 2008, when Shu Uemura, a Japanese cosmetic company, marketed falsies made from hair-like fibers. They looked like the real thing – with pointy ends – and could easily be trimmed, so more women started using them everyday to create the appearance of thicker lashes.

To apply, first trim the false lashes with scissors. Cut them at least 2 or 3 millimeters longer than the real lashes, depending on the desired effect.

You can find Shu Uemura false eyelashes (starting from 50 yuan a pair) at department stores.

Planting lids

Another way to get longer and thicker lashes is to “plant,” or glue, fake ones into the eyelid. This normally lasts a month.

This is a procedure that should only be done by a professional, so the services of a skilled beautician is required. Some unscrupulous salons have been known to plant lashes in two or three small bundles,

which result in uneven lash thickness and lashes that easily fall out.

After the procedure, make sure the lashes are kept away from water for at least three hours so they have time to adhere to the lids. The fake lashes make the eyes dramatic enough that eyeliner and mascara are no longer needed, beauticians say.

Fake lash plants are made from varying materials, including fiber, feathers and mink hair. They ordinarily come in two lengths: 10 centimeters and 12 centimeters. The shorter one is known to last longer. Consult with a salon beautician to choose the right curl size.

Most beauty salons offer this service and charge starting from 150 yuan.

The service is available at the fourth floor of Yashow Market.

Where: 59 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6416 8945



Kent & Curwen is known for classic British suits.

Photo provided by Kent & Curwen

Fashion for today's urban male

By Liang Meilan

Men looking to update their wardrobe this season should check out the latest collection from D'URBAN and Kent & Curwen, two Western brands available at local department stores.

D'URBAN's 2010 Fall/Winter collection, which doubles as its 40th anniversary collection, reflects the Italian menswear brand's philosophy of “sophisticated simplicity” and “quiet elegance.” Each piece is tagged “Anniversary Collection, Established 1970.”

The designs, themed “city traveler,” were designed for both style and functionality to suit city men who frequently travel for business. One eye-catching piece is a long, black coat that

doubles as a windbreaker. Made from synthetic material, it has a removable cashmere undervest padded with cotton. Inside the coat are several pockets to hold a wallet, cell phone and other 21st century gizmos.

Kent & Curwen, established in London in 1926, is known for its classic British suits and sportswear. The company began as a manufacturer of club, college and regiment ties. In the 1970s it added cricket and rugby knitwear to its line. Since then, it has expanded into formal and casual wear for the urban male.

For the 2008 Olympic Games, it sponsored the uniform of the Hong Kong team.

The brand's latest collection takes its cue from the Houses of Windsor, Spencer, Westmin-

ster and Devonshire, reflecting the culture of “true” English gentlemen and their noble estates.

Both the casual suits and sportswear are in gray, black and dark red. The brand's classic diagonal striped ties remain its most popular accessory. Check out its website, kentandcurwen.co.uk, to view the styles.

D'URBAN

Where: Sogo Department Store, 6 Xuanwumen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8522 1333

Kent & Curwen

Where: AA22, Oriental Plaza Mall, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8518 5110



D'URBAN's new winter coat, price to be determined

Photo provided by D'Urban

Spanish indulgence in Sanlitun

By Annie Wei

Sanlitun has become a one-stop shop for fans of Spanish food. At Nali Patio are Nijao and Carmen, which serve homey, traditional dishes, as well as Taste of Spain, which sells imported Spanish snacks, drinks and cooking ingredients like quality olive oil.

There is also Migas, at Nali Patio's top floor, and Modo, at the third floor of neighboring mall Sanlitun Village. Both restaurants offer inventive tapas and a wide selection of wines.

Good wine, rooftop lounge and arty decor

Migas made a great first impression on diners who were invited to its opening night three weeks ago. Besides sumptuous food, restaurant reviewers said it offered a cool industrial ambience with designer furniture and a 360-degree view of Sanlitun from its rooftop bar.

Beijing Today was so intrigued it decided to invite two readers to come along for dinner.

Before orders could be served, the decor won us over: industrial pipes side by side with a large chandelier made of hundreds of egg-shaped vessels and designer chairs. Meanwhile, the window-side tables provided a good view of Sanlitun Street.

When the food came, we enjoyed the watermelon cold soup with bluefin tuna stick (38 yuan), king prawns with cava sauce (48 yuan) and scallops in fish gratin (68 yuan), which was baked with cheese and ground pork.

But we made two bad choices. The first was the crunchy asparagus (28 yuan), which tasted like an oilier version of spring rolls. Second was the low-cooked beef ribs (98 yuan), rich and succu-

lent but not much different from chashao, Cantonese cuisine's version of barbecued meat.

Other diners wrote online about liking Migas' Italian apple risotto (68 yuan), salmon burgers (48 yuan), lamb shoulder (98 yuan) and pregnant tomato (38 yuan), which is fresh tomato stuffed with smoky eggplant, candied nuts and cubes of cheese.

We also recommend the restaurant's wines, which cost 83 to 90 yuan per glass at the top end.

It's a shame its rooftop bar opened just as summer came to an end, many customers say. Still, it's a cozy place to hang out as long as you put on enough clothes. You can relax on the bench-like sofa, egg-shaped tent and ball chair created by London designer Finn Stone (finnstone.com). Sadly, the quality of the cocktails (50 yuan) was only average.

Migas

Where: 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – late
Tel: 5208 6061



Low-cooked beef ribs, 98 yuan



Migas offers a plate of free bread.



King prawns with cava sauce, 48 yuan



Watermelon cold soup with bluefin tuna stick, 38 yuan

Photos by Ding Chunhan

Delicate food with nice ambience



Cappelletti, 60 yuan



Seared rare tuna, 60 yuan



Steak, 115 yuan

With only 28 seats, Modo offers a cozy environment for diners. It has been a hit since it opened last month.

Its menu is brief and simple. Unlike most Western restaurants, Modo's food is not categorized into appetizers, main dishes and side dishes. Customers order from a seasonal menu and see their food prepared in an open kitchen.

Beijing Today visited the restaurant three weeks ago and we were happy with its seared rare tuna (60 yuan) with mango and avocado salad. The tamarind-sesame sauce added layers of flavor.

We also liked the cappelletti (60 yuan), small pasta squares with shrimp, leeks, walnuts and creamy pesto sauce, as well as the Australian grain-fed beef tenderloin (115 yuan), which was grilled and glazed with Argentinean Malbec wine sauce. Big eaters should note that the steak is served in a small portion.

We recommend with some reservation the warm octopus salad (55 yuan) with shredded crispy potatoes. The octopus was savory but the potatoes were fried so long they lost flavor.

But customers will not be disappointed by Modo's wine selection. It offers 80 types of wine, 18 of which can be ordered by glass at 45 to 90 yuan. It also offers them at half a glass.

The restaurant also serves lunch sets at 80 yuan for two courses and 95 yuan for three.

Modo

Where: 3/F, Sanlitun The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6415 7207



Inside Modo

Photos by Ding Chunhan

Other Spanish restaurants in Sanlitun

Carmen

Where: 1/F Nali Patio (north side), 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10:30 am – 2 am
Tel: 6417 8038

Open: noon – 2:30 pm; 6-10:30 pm
Tel: 5208 6030

Nijao

Where: 3/F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 5208 6052

Mosto

Where: 3/F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

CFP Photos

Restoring the robust Chinese spirit

By He Jianwei

Foreign stereotypes of Chinese people tend to be one of two popular images. One is of masses in green uniform during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) and the other is of people in pigtails during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The artist Wang Fei laments that not many foreigners know more about *hanfu*, clothing worn by the Chinese before the Qing Dynasty and which he majestically depicts in paintings.

"Hanfu has lost its presence (in China)," Wang, 31, says. "Whenever the word 'oriental' comes up, Japan is the first country that comes to people's mind ... I cannot help thinking it's time we rebuild our image."

Through his work, Wang offers a commen-



tary on his generation's concern about China's lost grandeur and dignity as well as a perspective to help understand the relationship between the past and present.

Wang says he grew up with strict parents, who

chastised him for taking a day off from school because of a fever when he was 13. He says his father told him a story about a 1980 summer camp for children in which the Chinese participants quit hiking

when they fell ill, while the Japanese participants carried on despite also being sick.

"I suddenly felt so ashamed of myself," Wang says. "Restoring dignity is a serious mission for our generation,

and we cannot lose sight of it."

Wang contributes to the effort through his art.

All the people in his paintings have no eyeballs, akin to human skeletons. "The holes are entrances to a mysterious universe, and the hollow eyes can also accommodate souls that express anger and melancholy ... I'm trying to figure out where the sense of shame comes from and how we should deal with it," he says.

Heartbeats of My Forest

Where: 4/F, Yingzhibao Theater, 2 Lize Dong Erlu, Wangjing, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 30, daily, 11 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6439 8559

5 Friday, September 24

Exhibition Summer - Zeng Hao Solo Exhibition

Zeng, a major figure in China's conceptual-painting movement of the mid-1990s, depicts the detachment between people and the disconnection between people and the environment. He also criticizes the lack of spirituality in contemporary Chinese society.

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until October 30, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6559 8008

Movie

The Big Day (1949)

In a peaceful village in the center of France, everyone is preparing for the annual fair. Meanwhile, a chatty, easily distracted postman - influenced by too much wine and news reports of rapid transportation used by the United States Postal Service - goes to hilarious lengths to speed up the

delivery of mail on his bicycle.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 5 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife

Mark Kozelek

This US musician frequently writes autobiographical songs reflecting sorrow and despair.

Where: Bo House, 768 Design Park, 5 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 120 yuan advance purchase, 150 yuan at the door
Tel: 6211 7075



6 Saturday, September 25

Exhibition Angel with Broken Wings - Feng Weina

Solo Exhibition
Feng's porcelain sculptures of young women talk about lost youth.

Where: Dong Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxian-qiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 17, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9418

Movie

Heavenly Forest (2006)

A Japanese film about a photographer, Makoto, who travels to New York City at Christmastime to look for his college best friend, Shizuru. Makoto is a loner, but Shizuru managed to make him open up to her. Shizuru wanted nothing more than to be by Makoto's side, so when

he started liking a woman called Miyuki, Shizuru decided to befriend her too.

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6270 1928

Nightlife

Guaili's Flight of Delusion

The album *Flight of Delusion* is the first by local punk band Guaili.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door
Tel: 6402 5080



7 Sunday, September 26

Exhibition Why Life - Chen Xiaoyun Solo Exhibition

The show presents Chen's latest multi-channel video installation, a violent portrayal of life, society, lust, love and memory.

Where: ShanghART Beijing, 261 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 14, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 3202

Movie

The Aura (2005)

Espinoza is a shy taxidermist who secretly dreams of executing the perfect robbery. On his first ever hunting trip, in the calm of the Patagonian forest, his dream becomes reality. Espinoza accidentally shoots a man who turns out to be a criminal and decides to adopt his plan: to rob an armored van carrying casino money. But in a world of complex new rules and frightening violence, Espino-

za's lack of experience puts him in mortal danger.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 4 pm
Admission: Free (reservation by email necessary)

Email: cultipek@cervantes.org.cn

Nightlife Global Battle of the Bands - Beijing Final

The winning band will go to Hong Kong to compete in the

China championship and then proceed to Kuala Lumpur for the world final. The winner will be awarded a professional recording contract, a UK tour and \$100,000 (670,000 yuan). Last year's world champion was Beijing's own Rustic band.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Upcoming

Nightlife

Rap All Night

The album *Battlefield of Rap* includes songs by rappers from Beijing, Shanghai and Yunnan, Guangdong, Hunan and Hainan provinces.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District
When: September 30, 8:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 5205 1112

Stage in October

Concert

Concerto Koln

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: October 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-880 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Budapest Festival Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: October 4-5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Percussion Ensemble Atalaya of Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: October 4-5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Vienna Boys' Choir

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 16, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Dance

Moiseyev Dance Company

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 1-3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Chinese Folk Dance Drama: The Flower

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: October 12-13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

The Crab Flower by Singapore's Toy Factory Theater Ensemble

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District

When: October 9-21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-120 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

British TNT's Othello

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: October 15-17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 60-380 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Opera

Handel Opera: Semele

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 24, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

(By He Jianwei)

Bleeding gums a serious indicator of disease

By Han Manman

Many people find blood when brushing their teeth or biting into an apple, but most ignore this indicator of serious oral disease as a sign of "excessive internal heat."

But doctors warn that taking a wait-and-see approach to bleeding gums could open one to even greater health dangers.

Signs of disease

Bleeding gums are a common symptom of oral disease and occur in all age groups. While they can be a symptom of a mild abrasions caused by overly aggressive tooth brushing, they more often herald the onset of periodontal disease.

Li Weli, a stomatologist at Peking University Third Hospital, said bleeding gums are most often a symptom of gingivitis, a gum inflammation that signals the onset of periodontal disease and decay.

In China, more than 75 percent of adults suffer from various forms of gingivitis or periodontal disease, but bleeding gums can usually be halted by treating the underlying disease.

Bleeding gums are identified by the appearance of blood while brushing or spitting, or by the appearance of blood and bad breath following the consumption of fiber-rich foods.

Connected diseases

But if you have bleeding gums, periodontal disease may be the least of your worries.

Li said persistent gum bleeding may cause more serious medical conditions such as atherosclerosis, pancreatic cancer, platelet disorders and leukemia.

Neglecting bleeding gums gives harmful oral bacteria a chance to penetrate the bloodstream and spread to cause other diseases, Li said, "Every possible strain of bacteria in your mouth is entering your blood, and these bacteria multiply to millions or billions within hours if left unchecked."

While many consider bleeding gums a minor annoyance that does not require treatment, Li said the problem is actually a major signal of the need for urgent care.

"Failure to treat your gums can result in chronic bleeding and swelling, bone disease of the jaw, periodontal disease and tooth loss," Liu said.



CFP Photo

Causes of bleeding

1. Gums can bleed following trauma such as a blow, the insertion of foreign objects, tooth picking and improper brushing or flossing. Other oral injuries can be caused by irritating chemicals and acids found in foods, drinks, mouth fresheners, tooth whiteners and medicines.

2. Disease-related conditions — like inflamed, receded or weak and spongy gums — can also cause bleeding. It is

also commonly seen with dental problems such as cavities and tartar or plaque buildup.

3. Mouth sores can spread infection to the gums and cause bleeding. Disorders, bleeding and clotting disorders and leukemia can also cause bleeding.

4. Systemic disorders, such as heart, liver and kidney disorders, arterial or capillary diseases and diabetes, can cause bleeding gums.

5. Scurvy, a nutritional deficiency of vitamins C and K, will cause bleeding gums and spots on the skin. Advanced stages of the disease can result in tooth loss and open sores.

6. Pregnancy and hormonal changes can cause gums to bleed occasionally, as can poor oral hygiene, due to infection and weakness.

7. Medications, especially blood thinners like aspirin, can cause bleeding

gums. Some pain killers and procedures like chemotherapy and radiation therapy can also cause bleeding.

8. Hot foods which burn the gums can result in further bleeding. Some people still placing painkillers in their gums adjacent to an aching tooth: a practice that inevitably causes chemical burns. Certain rapidly spreading infections can also damage the blood vessels of the gums.

Tips for prevention

The tips listed below are easy to follow and useful ways to prevent bleeding gums:

1. Brush your teeth twice a day using a proper technique. Consult a dental hygienist or dentist to learn proper brushing techniques. Use only a brush with soft bristles and change it every three months.

2. Try to avoid using commercial, alcohol-containing mouthwashes, which may aggravate the problem. Floss after every meal to remove the stuck

food particles and plaque from the teeth. Flossing helps to prevent gum and tooth problems.

3. Maintain a well-balanced diet to minimize or prevent gum problems. Your diet should include ample calcium, vitamin C, proteins and other essential elements.

4. Drink plenty of water — at least eight glasses a day. Make sure to drink water after every meal to remove food particles from the teeth.

5. Avoid tobacco and tobacco-related

products as they damage the teeth and gums and cause dental problems and gum disease.

6. Avoid eating and drinking extremely cold or hot foods and beverages. Food and drinks served at extreme temperatures may damage the teeth and gums.

7. Avoid aspirin, which may cause your blood to clot prematurely during an episode of bleeding.

8. Abstain from chewing harder foods like meats and chewing gums

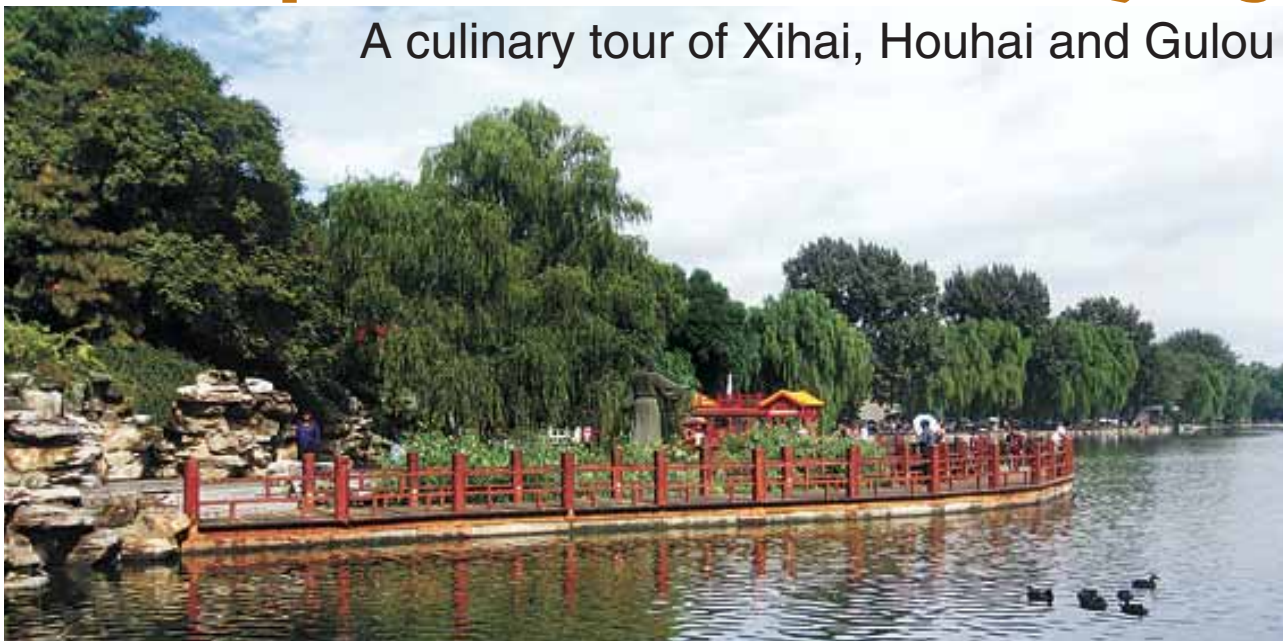
when suffering from gum-related problems. These foods put pressure on the roots of your teeth with your gums as the main victim.

9. Double your intake of vitamin C, especially from citrus fruits and vegetables. Vitamin C is known to help cure bleeding gums. Other useful supplements include herbal medicine products.

10. Gargle with warm water and salt or a few drops of lemon juice in the morning and after each meal to keep your gums and breath clean.

Top snacks of old Beijing

A culinary tour of Xihai, Houhai and Gulou



Jishuitan, once the biggest inland dock, has a large body of water with a lovely scenery.

Photos by Mockingbird



The top 13 old Beijing snacks feature cereal and grain and taste sweet. Photo by Cui Xiaolin



Liuquanju is an old snack brand specializing in steamed stuffed buns.

By Zhang Dongya

Snacks in Beijing have a long and colorful history. Some originated from the streets; others were created in the imperial palace. Many have a story to tell about life in old Beijing.

Beijing Today received a crash course in the city's old snacks when it joined a culinary tour, Top 13 Snacks in Old Beijing, organized by 90 Percent Travel. The three-hour walk teaches history and geography, but most of all, it filled our bellies.

Once the biggest inland dock

The tour starts in Jishuitan, on Northwest Second Ring Road, once part of China's Grand Canal, which ran all the way from Beijing in the north to Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, in the south. The canal, on the Tonghui River, was built during the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368) to expand water transportation to the imperial capital.

In Beijing, the canal began in Changping, snaked through the city center and terminated in Tongzhou. In the city center it formed a large lake named Jishuitan.

Jishuitan served as the main dock for inland water transportation during the Yuan Dynasty, becoming a collection point for cereals and grain from across the country. This brought the capital an abundant supply of food from the north and south, and enriched Beijingers' dining table fare.

The Grand Canal's decline began in the waning years of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), when the Jinpu Railway was built in 1908. The railroad stretched from Tianjin in the north to Pukou in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, in the south. It was later extended to Shanghai and was renamed the Jinghu Railway.

Today's Jishuitan still maintains a large body of water: Xihai (West Sea). It's nice to take a stroll along the banks, watching ducks swimming and willows swaying in

the breeze.

In the middle of Xihai is a small island where visitors can find Huitong Shrine, a temple built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and which was partly destroyed in the construction of Subway Line 2. Inside the shrine is Guoshoujing Memorial Hall, built to commemorate Guo Shoujing, a Yuan official who oversaw water transportation in the Tonghui River. The shrine is open to the public, for free, and visitors can learn Guo's life story while enjoying Xihai's flora.

Old brands in Houhai

Along Xihai's bank are several hutong, or alleys, that sell a wide variety of Beijing snacks.

As a political, commercial and cultural hub, Beijing and its food have been influenced by other regions and ethnic groups. The capital has Muslim food courtesy of the Hui people, while mutton dishes mainly came from the Man people and Inner Mongolia's residents.

Across Deshengmen Bridge, which marks the boundary of Xihai and Houhai (Back Sea), is the Shichahai area.

On Deshengmen Inner Avenue is Liuquanju, a shop that specializes in *baozi*, or steamed stuffed bun, with sweet bean paste. Liuquanju, founded in 1567, is one of Beijing's "time-honored brands" and now has at least 20 branches all over the city.

Continued on page 21...



Many traditional snacks have a story to tell about life in old Beijing.



Longxingsheng, a Muslim food stand on Ya'er Hutong

... continued from page 20

Top 13 in Jiumen

Jiumen, on the north bank of Houhai, ranks high on the itineraries of people looking for Beijing snacks.

Jiumen, or Nine Gates, is named after the nine gates of the inner city of old Beijing. These include Zhengyang Men, which was used solely by the emperor; Desheng Men, the gate for troops; and Chaoyang Men, the entrance for grain supplies.

Jiumen is home to more than 10 old Beijing brands selling 300 kinds of traditional snacks.

According to 90 Percent Travel, snacks on the list were made from cereal and grain and had a sweet taste. Some came from neighboring provinces like Hebei and Inner Mongolia.

One of them is *ludagun*, a pastry made of steamed glutinous millet flour and soybean flour mixed with sugar. One account says that the mixture of the steamed millet flour and soybean flour resembled the color of donkey's skin, thus its name "rolling donkey."

Aiwowo is a typical imperial snack. It is made of

sticky rice, with peach kernels, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds and sugar filling. It reportedly originated from the Ming imperial palace, an emperor's favorite. It is now one of Beijing's most popular snacks.

Meanwhile, one snack that went from the commoners' kitchen to the table of royalty was *wandouhuang*, or pea-flour cake. It was the commoners' favorite snack in spring and summer, and took on a refined and delicate taste after it was adapted by the emperor's chefs.

The only drink that made the cut was *miancha*, stir-fried flour with hemp seed, osmanthus flowers and beef marrow fat. It is said to have been passed on by the people of Inner Mongolia.

Other snacks on the list include *jiaoquan* (crispy fried ring of dough), *naiyou zhagao* (fried dough with cream and sugar) and *jiangzhi paicha* (fried flour chips with ginger).

Street-food stops around Gulou

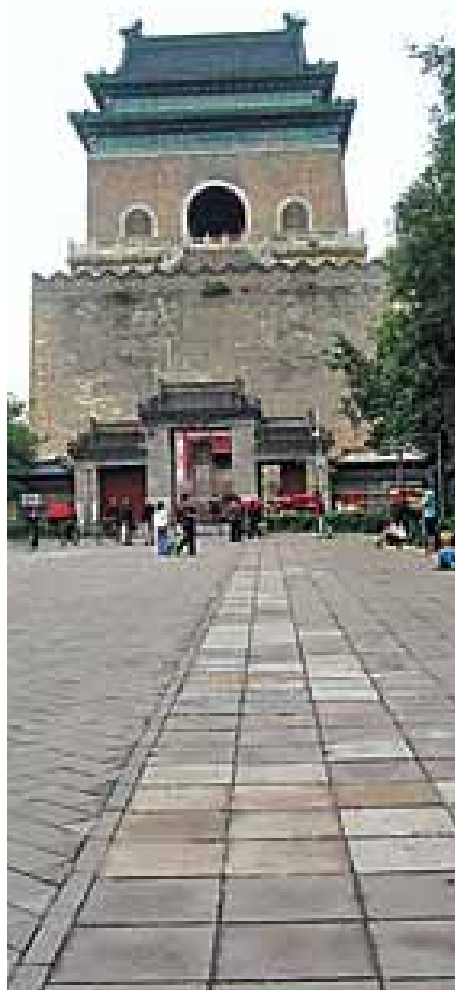
West Gulou Street also features stores offering popular Beijing snacks.

There's Sanyuan Meiyuan, founded in 1980 and which specializes in milk products handed down by the imperial palace. The shop, which has more than 30 branches in the city, is known for its traditional Beijing yogurt and cheese.

Wangpangzi draws many customers for its *huruo huoshao*, or donkey meat burger. The snack, which comes from Hebei Province, is sold at almost every street corner.

On Ya'er Hutong, off West Gulou Street, is a small and shabby stall that is always filled to the rafters. It is Longxingsheng Excellent Snacks, a Muslim food stand that offers Beijing street food including *shaobing jiarou* (fried bun with meat) and a variety of beef and mutton snacks.

In the neighborhood are other popular shops like Yaoji Chaogan, which serves stir-fried liver, and Huntun Hou, which offers tasty wontons.



Longxingsheng offers excellent Beijing street food and a variety of beef and mutton snacks.

Photos by Mockingbird



Sanyuan Meiyuan is a shop well-known for traditional Beijing yogurt and cheese.

Jiumen in Shichahai is home to more than 300 kinds of traditional snacks. CFP Photo



Dining



Autumn opening

Autumn is here at VIC restaurant. Come sample Chef Christian Werdenberg's special seasonal dishes and beverages. Join the celebration and enjoy VIC's colorful buffet.

Where: VIC, Sofitel Hotel Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: September 11-26

Cost: 198 yuan (lunch buffet), 268 yuan (dinner buffet)

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6521



Hairy crab delights

Celebrate the king of crabs with your choice of three preparations: steamed with sweetened black vinegar and ginger, stir-fried with Shanghaiese rice cakes or salted crab meat with egg whites. These perennial favorite are available at Rouge Chinese Restaurant.

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 5993 8888



All about lobster

The Westin Beijing Chaoyang is flying in Canadian lobsters for autumn. Come visit the live cooking sta-

tions at Seasonal Tastes. For lobsters with a Chinese flavor try Zen5es; for delicate and creative Western dishes try Grange. It's all about the lobster at this not-to-be-missed event.

Where: The Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 15-30

Tel: 5922 8880



Sushi secrets at Kempinski

Japanese cuisine has long been the envy of the culinary world. Its exquisite flavors and textures are the result of an intimate knowledge and respect for ingredients, technique and presentation. Head Chef Tani Gu of Japanese restaurant Honzen will share some of his culinary skills and secrets during a fun-filled afternoon at Kempinski Hotel Beijing. Tani will instruct visitors in the three cores of fine Japanese cuisine: retaining the freshness of each ingredient, maintaining the nature of food and using superior tableware.

Where: Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 17, 4-7 pm

Cost: 398 yuan, includes a recipe booklet (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4200



Apple and pear extravaganza

Lobby Lounge is celebrating autumn with its best signature apple and pear cakes, meant to be savored and enjoyed at leisure to live classical music. Enjoy the delightful miniature pastries created by China World Hotel's award-winning pastry team, as well as six new cakes including apple crumble tart, pear jalousie and William pear mousse.

Where: Lobby Lounge, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: October 1-31

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 37

Event

Midnight Clash

Kid Fresh needs no introduction at Punk: as the five-time DMC/ITF world champion turntablist, he plays a lethal mix of dance music from every genre. The night's special guest will be Suivez, all the way from Switzerland. His DJ team PonyBomb has taken Europe by storm with performances at the famous Hive Club in Zurich. Playing in Asia for the first time, the two guarantee that Punk is in for one hell of a rocking party.

Where: The Opposite House, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 23

Tel: 6417 6688

Hilton Kids cooking class

If one of your children loves to cook, sign him or her up for the Hilton Kids Cooking Class at the Hilton Beijing Wangfujing. Kids will learn baking and cooking from skilled chefs while turning the kitchen upside down. The event is held every Saturday from 3 to 5 pm with new projects each week from pizza to fish rizzole, chocolates and apple pies. There are plenty of tables near the open kitchen where parents can sit and relax while sipping coffee or tea. The price is 128 yuan and includes a cup of delicious hot chocolate. Children get to take home their creations. Enroll your child today by calling Jason Chen at 13810720018 or emailing jason.chen@hilton.com.

Hotel



Holiday Inn opens in Beijing

Holiday Inn Beijing Focus Square, located in Wangjing's main business area, is easily accessible from the airport, the new exhibition center and downtown. It has 275 rooms, including 61 on the executive floor and 21 suites with a great view of the city and suburbs. The lobby and lounge face a beautiful and quiet courtyard garden.

The 5th floor has a 25-meter-long swimming pool, a steam bath and sauna and an exceptionally well-equipped gym. Dining facilities include All Day Dining, serving Western and Asian cuisine at cooking stations, the Sao Paulo Brazilian Restaurant serving authentic Brazilian barbecue, the Sunshine Terrace outdoor dining venue for casual dinners and the Chopsticks Chinese Restaurant. Meeting facilities include a spacious ballroom and seven breakout rooms fitted with state-of-the-art meeting equipment and an impressive boardroom.

For reservations call 6473 3333 or visit holidayinn.com.cn.



Pay two nights, stay three

To celebrate the 61st National Day, Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall is offering a special National Day Package. Stay two consecutive nights and enjoy your third night free.

Where: Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, 7 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 1-9

Cost: 1,000 yuan per room per night (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5811 8888

Shangri-La Tokyo offers Chinese discount

Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo is offering a new promotion for Chinese citizens and foreigners who live on the mainland: special room rates and exclusive benefits. The special rate for a Deluxe Room is 40,000 yuan for a maximum of two persons and 52,000 yuan for three persons including breakfast. Benefits include an interpreter and shopping assistant and complimentary beverage at the tea salon. Interpreters speak English and Chinese, and items purchased will be directly delivered to the guest's room. The offer is valid until December 30.

For reservations, contact the hotel at (+81 3) 6739 7888, e-mail slty@shangri-la.com or visit the website shangri-la.com/tokyo.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Donate one's entire fortune, but with clothes on

By Han Manman

"Chinese people are really interesting," my American friend Andy said on MSN one day. Andy lives in the US but has visited China a few times and has made many Chinese friends on the Internet.

"Why do you say so?" I asked, thinking he wanted to share a story he heard from one of his chat buddies.

"Did you hear about the awfully rich businessman who promised to donate all his money and do it butt-naked?" he asked. "Don't you think that's hilarious?"

"I didn't hear about that," I said, thinking it must be another person who wanted media attention and overnight fame.

"But one of my Chinese friends told me it's the hottest news in China this week. You're a journalist, so how can you not know?" he said, adding that the man's name is Chen Guangbiao.

"Chen Guangbiao? Are you sure?" I asked. Chen is a well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist who recently pledged to donate his entire fortune to charity after his death. The move was an echo of Bill Gates' promise to hand over to charity all his property – worth \$58 (389 billion yuan) – after his retirement.

Chen became the first person in China to respond to the campaign

launched in the US by Gates and Warren Buffett, who will soon visit China to advocate philanthropy. But I didn't hear about Chen giving away his fortune while stark naked.

I thought there must have been some miscommunication between Andy and the news bearer.

"Tell me again what your other Chinese friend told you," I said.

"He said Chen promised to naked donate his fortune," Andy said.



I knew it! "You misunderstood, Andy,"

I said. "There's a popular phrase here, 'Luo

juan,' recently coined by the media to mean a person who has pledged to donate all his fortune after he dies.

Your friend translated the phrase into English word by word as 'naked donation,' but it has nothing to do with Chen stripping."

Andy typed a lot of laughing emoticons then said, "In English, we say 'all-out donation.'"

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

The Basementdoor-Stopping

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

What is going on with this sign? From a copy editor's point of view, are we going with all capital letters for the sign? Or did we run out of uppercase letters? Is there, or is there not, a space between "basement" and "door"? Where on earth did the hyphen come from? Yikes!

On the other hand, we're glad that the basement door is stopping because what would we do if it just took off and kept on running!? This reminds me of an old joke about Canada's province of Saskatchewan: Saskatchewan is so flat that after three days, you can still see your dog running away!

This sign informs you that either (a) your basement door is stopping or (b) this is the place to find it when it does stop. (Perhaps this is where tornados deposit all basement doors they have lifted off in their wake?)

Wait a minute. Looking at the Chinese characters on the sign, even I can recognize some of them. *Di-something-menkou*, which means, "ground-something-doorway." This must be where "the basement door" comes from. The second half: some-some-some-*che*. The last character means "car," and it's identical to the one that was beside my car when I parked it this morning and the policeman yelled at me until I



Photo by Christina Wang

moved it. It's probably something like "No Parking."

But two questions remain for me. First, why is your basement door in the middle of the street? And second, did we really run out of capital letters?

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Many diplomats are first time trying to make Sichuan cuisine.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): This is a typical Chinglish sentence. It shows the writer thinking in perfect language order – at least in Chinese. In English, you have to say: It is the first time for the diplomats to try to make Sichuan cuisine, or, The diplomats are trying to make Sichuan cuisine for the first time. As "first time" is an adverbial of time, you have to use the preposition "for." An example: He has lived in Beijing for five years. You do not say: He is five years in Beijing. However, you may say: It has been five years since he moved to Beijing. It is such nuances that make for different levels of linguistic competency.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): It is difficult for a student to move from basic English sentence structure to higher levels of writing, incorporating time periods, as the Professor has noted above. One of the best ways non-native speakers can improve their English writing is to read – especially literature outside the "TOEFL/IELTS/College Entrance Exam test materials box."

2. I won't weigh in the debate over the quality.

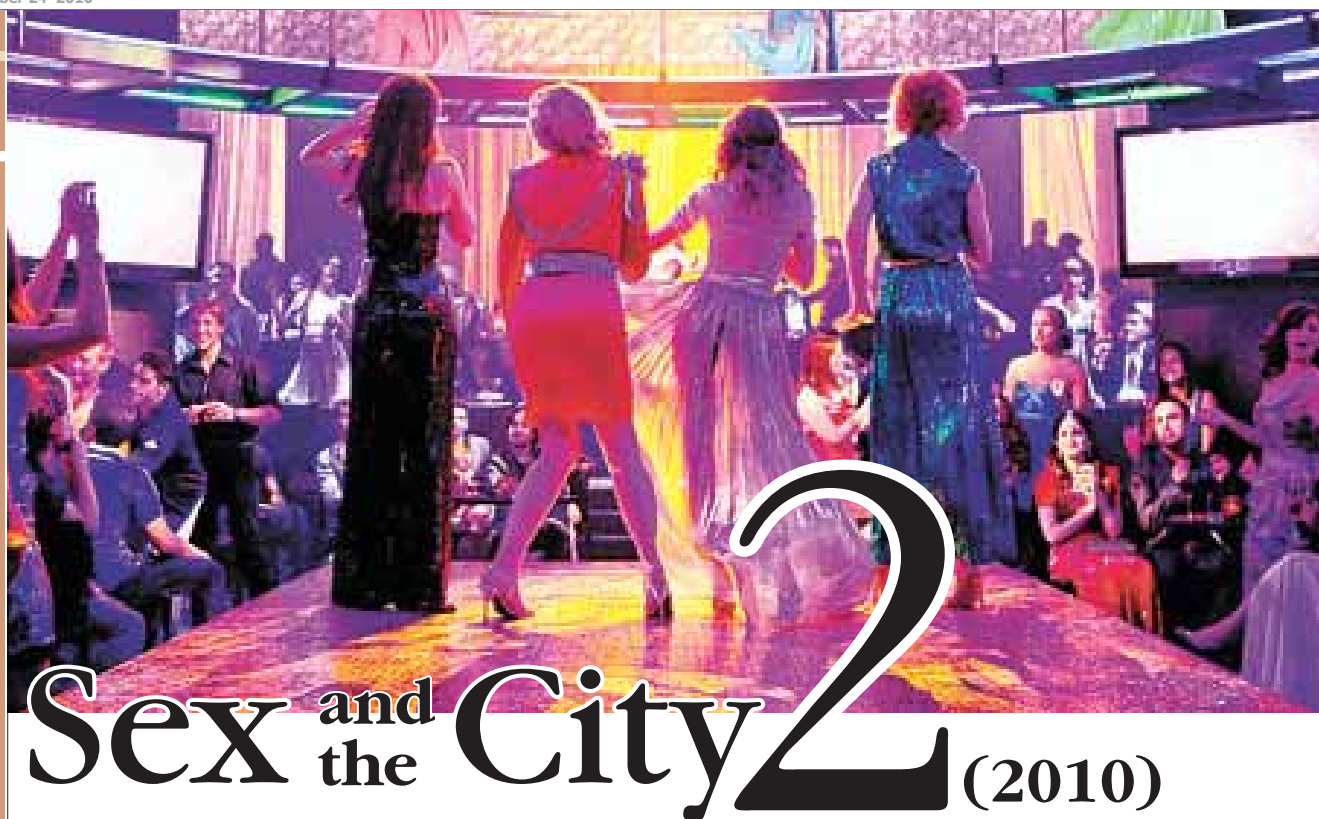
ZS: The verb is wrongly used here. To weigh in means to verify the weight of something or somebody. For instance, The clerks of the scales in all cases shall weigh in the riders of the horses. I suppose the writer wished to say: I won't weigh in on the debate over the quality. The expression "weigh in on," mostly used by people in North America, means being critical of something, to comment on something or somebody. One US newspaper wrote: An assembly of legislators weighs in on a controversial digital copyright law; Experts weigh in on the Mac vs. PC security; The critic weighs in on the book written by a man in his early 20s. If you miss a word in a set expression, the sentence's meaning will turn out differently.

TBZ: Agreed. Americans "weigh in" for Weight Watchers and sports competitions, and then, perhaps, only reluctantly. However, I think they like to "weigh in on" a lot of topics, as we all do whenever we have the chance.

3. By way of preface to say that

ZS: When preface is a noun, it means an introduction to a book, writing or speech. For instance, Does your history book have a preface written by the author? He seemed to look upon a certain mass of disappointment as the natural preface to all realizations (by Thomas Hardy). The accident was the preface to a great scientific discovery. You can see here that the terms that follow "preface" are all nouns. When you wish to express an idea as stated in the sentence in question, you say: By way of preface to saying that. You have to use a participle phrase serving as a noun phrase. Here's another example: In history, the meeting will be remembered as a preface to opening up a great vista for the people.

TBZ: We could also use "prefacing" as a verb. For example: Prefacing her words carefully, she expressed her wishes clearly and concisely so that even he could understand what she wanted.



Scene 1

(Carrie talks with her friend Stanford about his wedding.)

Stanford (S): "Like a virgin."

Carrie (C): "Touched for the very first time."

S: So, what do you think of everything?

C: You have swans!

S: Too much?

C: When is swan ever too much?

S: I don't know what came over me, remember that summer when I got hooked on (1) coke? This was like that.

C: You dropped quite a bundle (2).

S: I've been saving for this day since I was 19.

C: You always knew you were gonna get married?

S: Yes, I just thought it'd be to a chubby patient Jewish girl.

C: FYI (3), Anthony is out there telling people he's allowed to cheat.

S: I know, he hates the traditions, so he pushes against it.

C: So he's allowed to cheat?

S: Yes, but only in the 45 states where we're not legally married.

C: Good, now you get mine ... Carrie Preston?

(Carrie opens her gift.)

S: What?

C: Nothing. I'm just surprised not to be "Bradshaw" on your wedding.

S: The wedding planner said couples are always listed under their married names, that makes sense.

C: Are you taking Anthony's name?

S: No. We are guys.

Scene 2

(Carrie is invited to a movie premiere Monday evening, but Mr. Big is too tired to go with her.)

C: Is that you?

Mr. Big (B): I hope so, who else has the key?

C: The delivery boy?

B: Really?

C: You want food at home, that's the risk you take. Don't get too comfortable on that couch: we have to be at the premiere in an hour.

B: Is that tonight? On a Monday?

Movie of the week

The ladies are back, and this time they are too old for a fashionable movie full of shining clothes, shoes and handsome young men and women.

Critics have said the movie is boring, hollow and nothing but scenes of changing clothes – but that was what *Sex and the City* was from the very beginning. Fans that followed the TV series for years never cared much about the plot, only about the brands and fancy lifestyles for which they longed.

If this is your first *Sex and the City* experience, take this movie as a fashion training video and never mind the plot.

Synopsis

Two years have passed since Carrie Bradshaw bagged John "Mr. Big" Preston, the man she was meant to be with. Just as her friend Charlotte must deal with her young daughter's "terrible twos," Carrie must deal with her relationship taking a turn for the worse. Big likes to watch old black-and-white movies on TV and eat take-out, which is keeping Carrie from being the free-wheeling party girl she used to be. Miranda is coping with a new boss that can't handle an intelligent, powerful woman. Through her public relations gig, Samantha nets the four an all-expense-paid trip to Abu Dhabi.



C: Yes?

B: Who would go out on Mondays?

C: First of all, I didn't know we didn't and second of all, problem?

B: The market fell 100 points and I have to get dressed up and go to some Hollywood thing?

C: All you have to do is put on a fresh shirt.

B: Can't you go without me?

C: I don't wanna go without you, I wanna go with you. That's the point. Me and you out on the town.

D: I've been on the town for 30 years. I have seen the town, kid. You go have fun with your friends.

C: But I wanna spend time with you.

B: If you wanna spend time with me,

stay here – at our home which you made so perfect.

C: You just don't wanna get your ass off the couch. All right, fine. Stay, I'll go with Stanford.

B: OK.

C: What is that?

B: I picked up some dinner from that new Japanese place on Madison.

(Carrie gives Big a bottle of wine.)

C: Throat this back. We are going.

B: I thought you just said ...

C: I changed my mind.

B: Do you really wanna be pushed and shoved in the crowd and eat bad catered (4) food?

C: Yes! Yes! I'm dying to be pushed and shoved in the crowd and eat bad catered

food. I'm dying to eat anything that doesn't come in a take-out box. Bottles up! I'll put you in a fresh shirt.

Scene 3

B: Almost packed?

C: One more to go.

B: I have an idea I want to talk to you about. Remember when you took those two days off to finish your article? And then we had that great night. Maybe we should think about doing that every week. Hear me out (5).

After you took those two days at your old apartment, I started thinking, what if I got a place?

C: You want your own apartment?

B: No, not my own apartment, just a place that I can go two days a week, lie around, watch TV – do the shit I wanna do but that bugs you – and the other five days, I'll be here available for dinners, sparkle or whatever.

C: So you're telling me that you want two days off a week from our marriage?

B: And you'd have the same two days.

C: OMG!

B: To work, or see your friends – do the things you wanna do without me.

C: But I don't wanna do things without you.

B: Carrie, come on, I know you. Can you honestly tell me you didn't enjoy those two days to yourself?

C: Two days, yes, but I don't need it every week. Are you saying you need it every week?

B: I don't know. It's just an idea. Something to think about.

C: Marriage doesn't work like that.

B: I thought we were supposed to make our own rules.

Vocabulary

1. hook on: addicted to

2. bundle: here it means a lot of money

3. FYI: abbreviation for "For your information"

4. cater: to provide food for a banquet

5. hear me out: a plea to finish speaking

(By Wang Yu)